

#1 10 FOR 10

COVER A

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • kyle RITTER • josh REED



ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

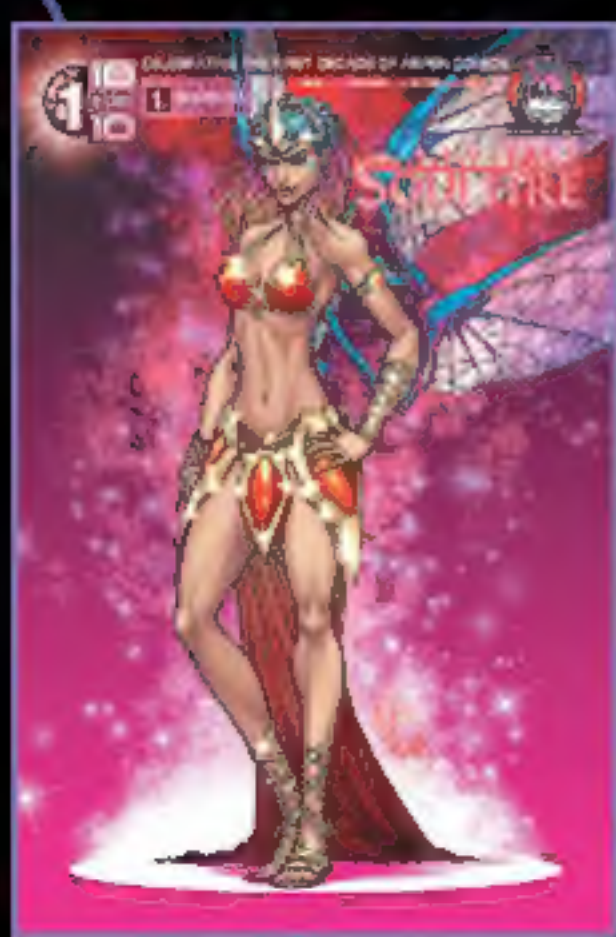


vk 13





A
DIRECT EDITION
BY -V KEN MARION
& JOHN STARR



B
SPECIAL RESERVED EDITION
BY -V KEN MARION
& PETER STEIGERWALD



C
ORIGINAL SKETCH EDITION



E
10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



F
STAN LEE'S COMIKAZE EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION OF 200
BY -MICHAEL TURNER
& PETER STEIGERWALD



G
ISLANDER COMICS EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION OF 200
BY -PAOLO PANTALENA
& PETER STEIGERWALD

Retailer Exclusive Editions

- 01: Rupp's Comics (pencils/inks by Chris Ehnott, colors by David Delanty)
- 02: Lone Star Comics
- 03: Capt. Chuck's Comics
- 04: Wade's Comic Madness
- 05: Captain Comics
- 06: Ghost Ship Comics
- 07: WV Pop Culture Con (art by Penelope Gaylord, PengPengArt.com)
- 08: Source Comics & Games
- 09: EHI (drawn by Oliver Casteñeda, colors by Elmer Santos)
- 10: Heroes & Fantasies
- 11: Warp 9 Comics
- 12: Creative Comics
- 13: Stadium Comics (art by Agnes Garbowska)
- 14: Reader Copies
- 15: Collectors Ink
- 16: Cleveland Comics (art by Marc Macalus o)
- 17: Victory Comics
- 18: Mile High Comics (art by Monte Moore)
- 19: Drawn to Comics (drawn by Denae Frazier, colors by Bill Farmer)
- 20: 4 Color Fantasies
- 21: Pittsburgh Comicon (drawn by Oliver Casteñeda, colors by Elmer Santos)
- 22: Madness Games & Comics
- 23: New Dimension Comics (pencils/inks by Chris Ehnott, colors by David Delanty)
- 24: Keith's Komix (art by Agnes Garbowska)
- 25: Stormwatch Comics (art by Ken Haeser, Buz Hasson, Blair Smith)
- 26: GoCollect.com
- 27: Event Horizon Games
- 28: Cleveland Comics [2]



D
RETAILER EXCLUSIVE EDITION
BY -V KEN MARION
& PETER STEIGERWALD

J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

digital inks

KYLE RITTER

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

A L L N E W
M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S
S O U L F I R E

soulfire created by michael turner

"Something In The Air"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

A YOUNG ORPHAN NAMED MALIKAI DISCOVERED HE WAS THE SAMUSARA, A CATALYST FOR BRINGING BACK THE ANCIENT FORCES OF MAGIC LONG HIDDEN AWAY IN A FUTURISTIC SOCIETY DEPENDENT ON THE ADVANCES OF TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, WITH SUCH GREAT POWER, MALIKAI SOON LEARNED THE COST OF WIELDING IT, ALONG WITH HIS PROTECTOR GRACE, AND HIS FRIENDS SONIA, PJ AND BENOIST, THEY HAVE CONTINUALLY BATTLED TO PROTECT THESE INTERESTS FROM RAINIER, A DARK LORD OF TECHNOLOGY WHO WOULD SEE THE AGE OF MAGIC FOREVER PERISHED--ALONG WITH ALL OF THEM...

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issue 1

NOVEMBER 2013. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite. 111, Culver City, CA 90230, The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and its logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. Stan Lee's Comikaze logo are registered trademarks of the Advanstar Communications Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2013 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER

Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD

Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO

Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ

Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED

Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS, JOHN ERCEK

Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL

AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP

Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

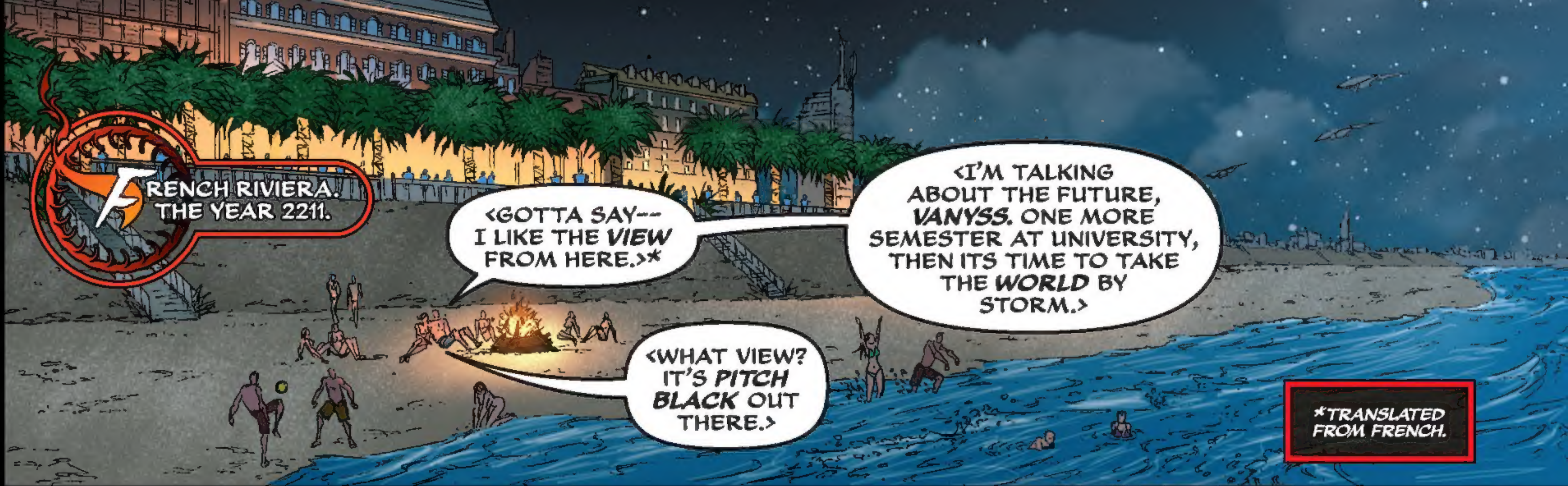
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@GFLOYSTUDIO.COM]



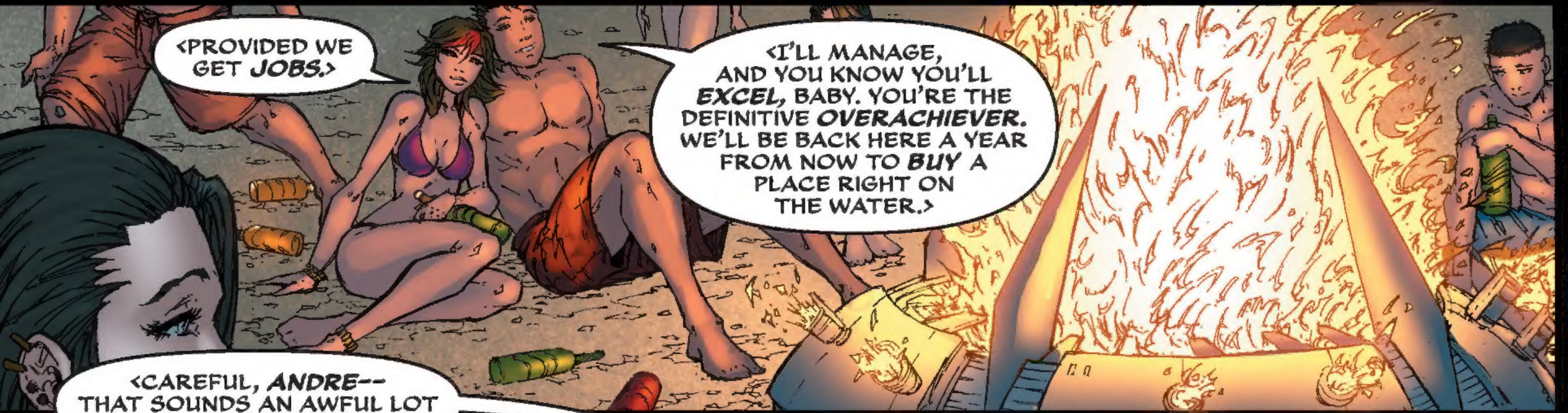
FRENCH RIVIERA.
THE YEAR 2211.

<GOTTA SAY--
I LIKE THE VIEW
FROM HERE.>*

<I'M TALKING
ABOUT THE FUTURE,
VANYSS. ONE MORE
SEMESTER AT UNIVERSITY,
THEN ITS TIME TO TAKE
THE **WORLD** BY
STORM.>

<WHAT VIEW?
IT'S **PITCH
BLACK** OUT
THERE.>

*TRANSLATED
FROM FRENCH.



<PROVIDED WE
GET **JOBS**.>

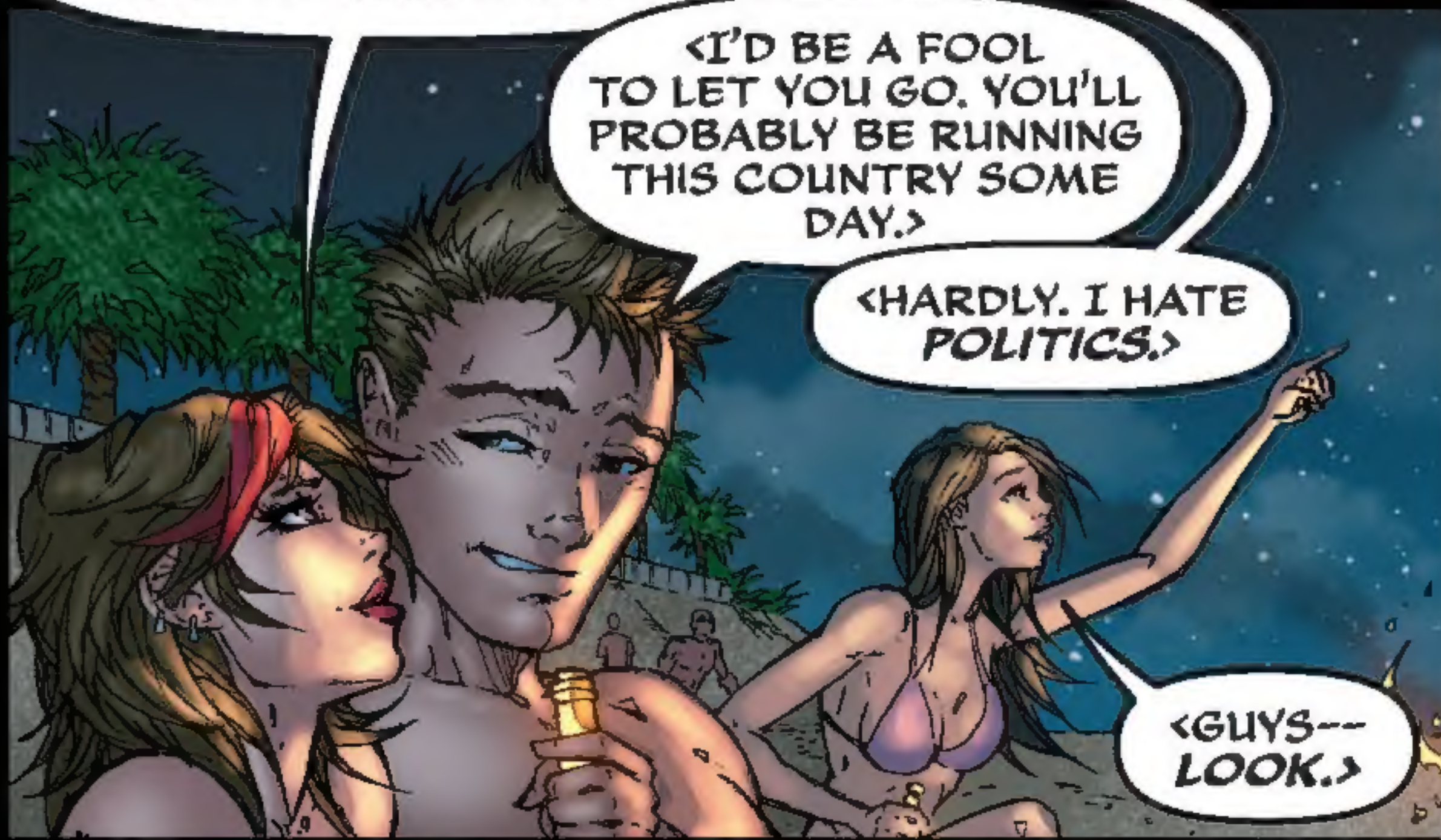
<I'LL MANAGE,
AND YOU KNOW YOU'LL
EXCEL, BABY. YOU'RE THE
DEFINITIVE **OVERACHIEVER**.
WE'LL BE BACK HERE A YEAR
FROM NOW TO **BUY** A
PLACE RIGHT ON
THE WATER.>

<CAREFUL, **ANDRE**--
THAT SOUNDS AN AWFUL LOT
LIKE A **COMMITMENT**.>

<I'D BE A FOOL
TO LET YOU GO. YOU'LL
PROBABLY BE RUNNING
THIS COUNTRY SOME
DAY.>

<HARDLY. I HATE
POLITICS.>

<GUYS--
LOOK.>



DAMN!

RADICIOUS!

WOW!

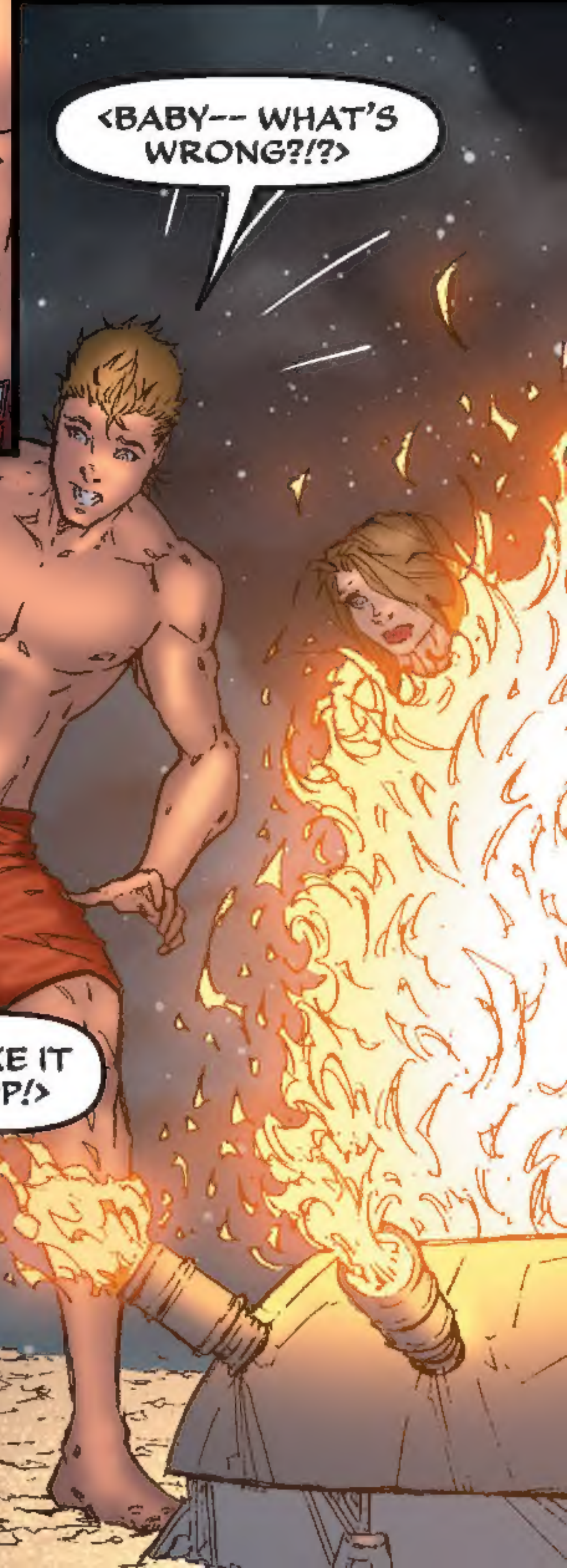


NNNN...

<MY HEAD IS
SPINNING. TOO
MUCH WINE, I
THINK.>



AHHH!



<BABY-- WHAT'S
WRONG?!?>



<MAKE IT
STOP!>

AHHHHHHH!!!

VANYSS???

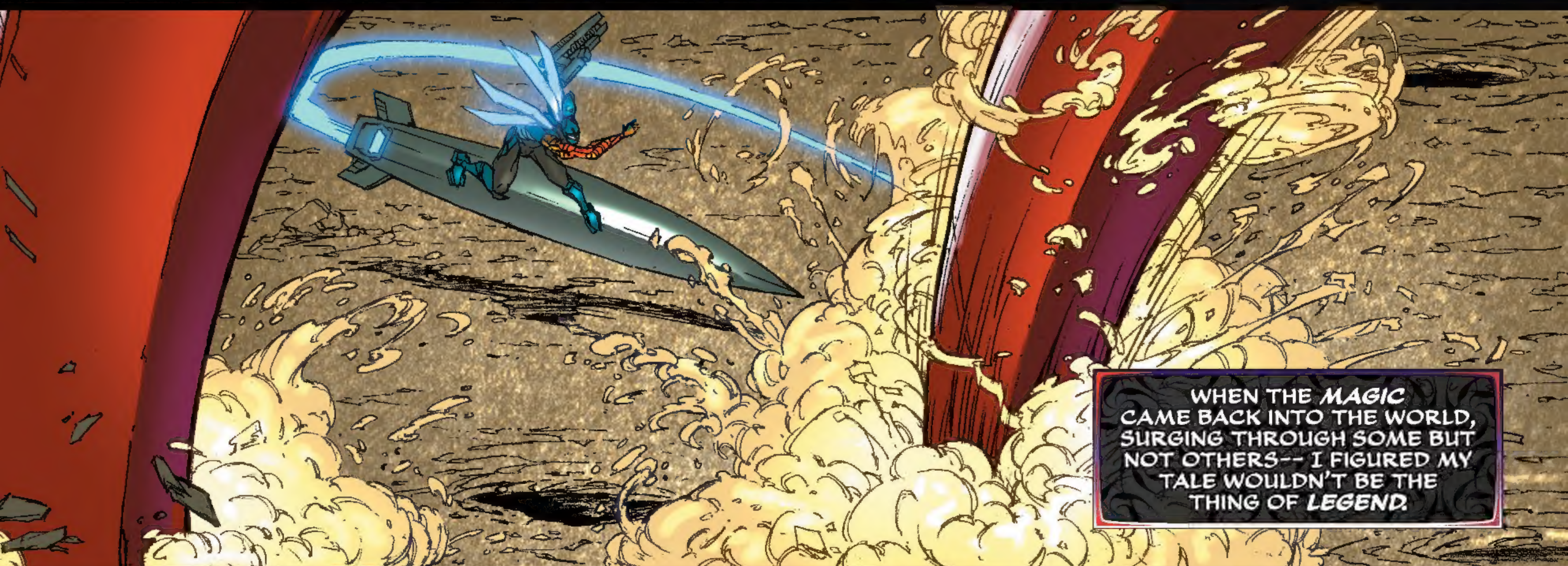


PACIFIC NORTHWEST
CONFERENCE.

THE YEAR 2213, NOW.



I MIGHT NOT
ADMIT IT OUT LOUD, BUT
I KNOW THE TRUTH. THIS
IS NOT MY STORY.



WHEN THE MAGIC
CAME BACK INTO THE WORLD,
SURGING THROUGH SOME BUT
NOT OTHERS-- I FIGURED MY
TALE WOULDN'T BE THE
THING OF LEGEND.

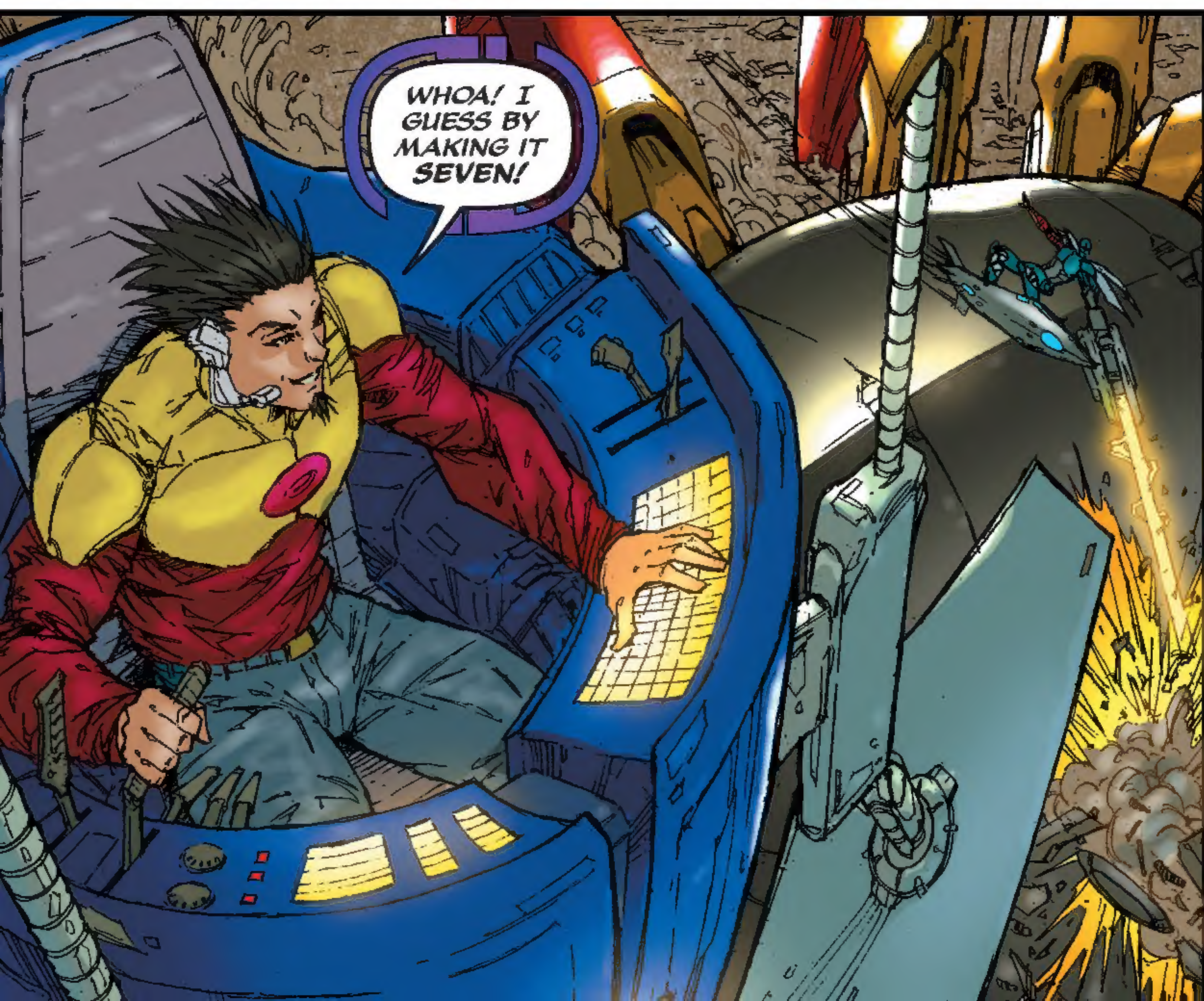


DOESN'T BOTHER
ME THOUGH. I NEVER
WANTED TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE...

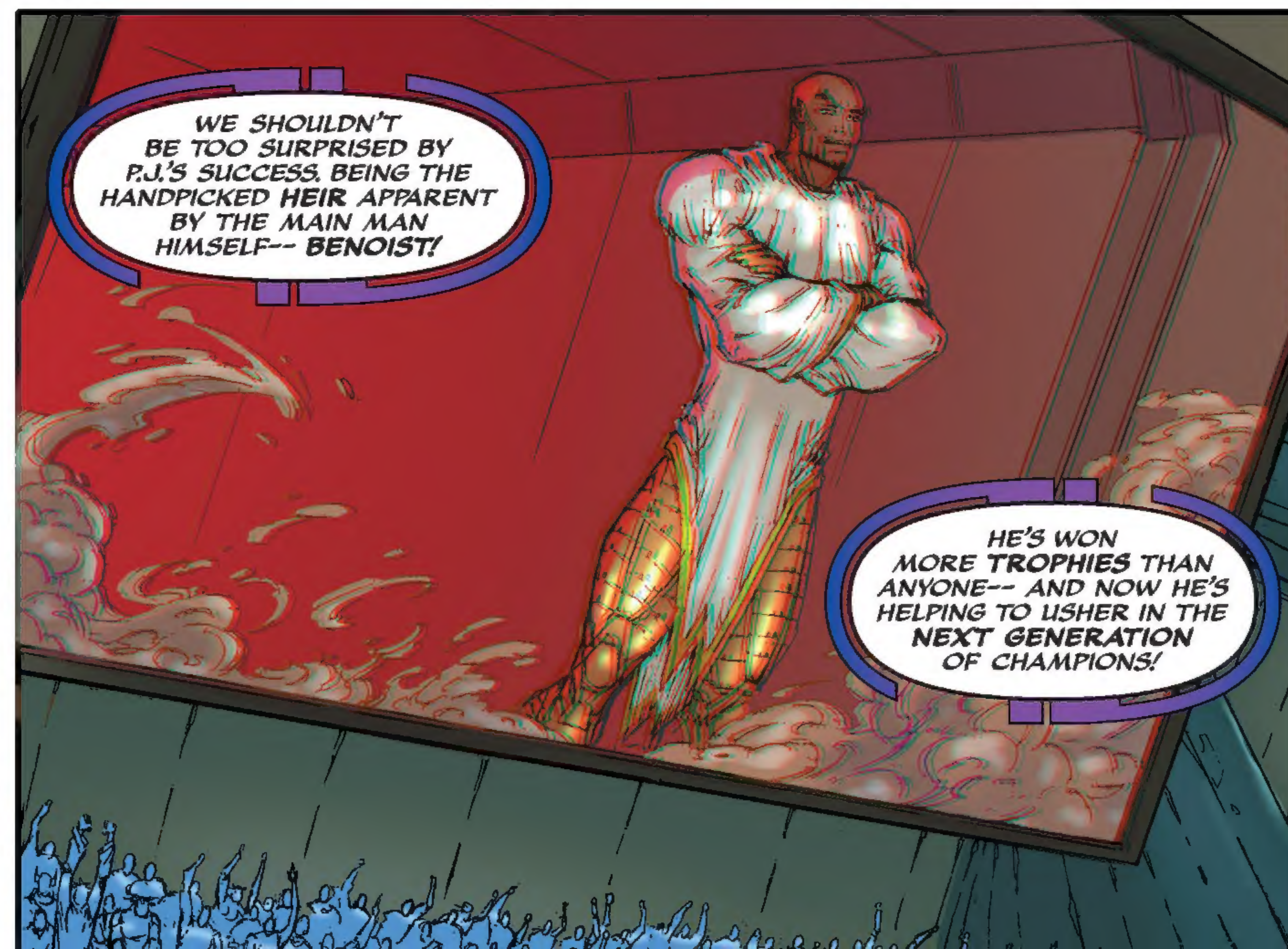


...I JUST WANT TO PUT
ON A GOOD SHOW.

NICE MOVE BY P.J.
THAT WAS CLOSE, BUT
HOW LONG CAN HE KEEP
THIS UP WHEN THERE ARE
EIGHT LEGS CRASHING
AFTER HIM?



WHOA! I
GUESS BY
MAKING IT
SEVEN!



WE SHOULDN'T
BE TOO SURPRISED BY
P.J.'S SUCCESS, BEING THE
HANDPICKED HEIR APPARENT
BY THE MAIN MAN
HIMSELF-- BENOIST!

HE'S WON
MORE TROPHIES THAN
ANYONE-- AND NOW HE'S
HELPING TO USHER IN THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF CHAMPIONS!



I'D SAY
P.J. IS IN GOOD
HANDS.



COME ON,
P.J.-- SOCK
IT TO 'EM!

DON'T
ENCOURAGE
HIM, MAL.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR A *HERO*-- THAT'S HIM
RIGHT THERE. *MALIKAI*.

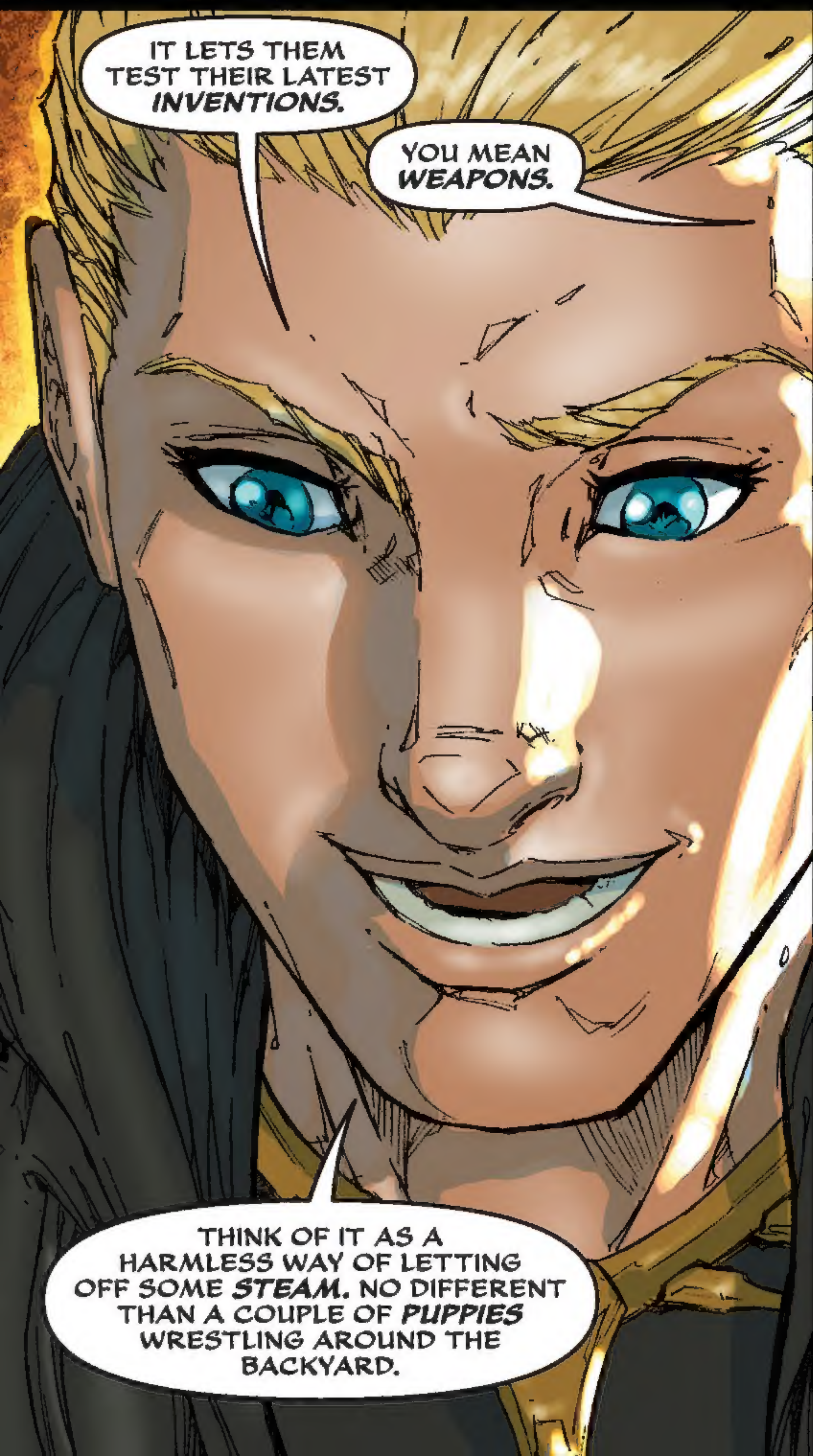
MIGHT NOT LOOK
LIKE MUCH, BUT HE'S
SPECIAL. *MAGICAL*. KID'S
BEEN TO HELL AND
BACK, LITERALLY.



ISN'T THAT
WHAT *BEST FRIENDS*
ARE FOR?

YOU KNOW,
I'D DO THE SAME FOR
YOU IF YOU WERE OUT
THERE, *SONIA*.

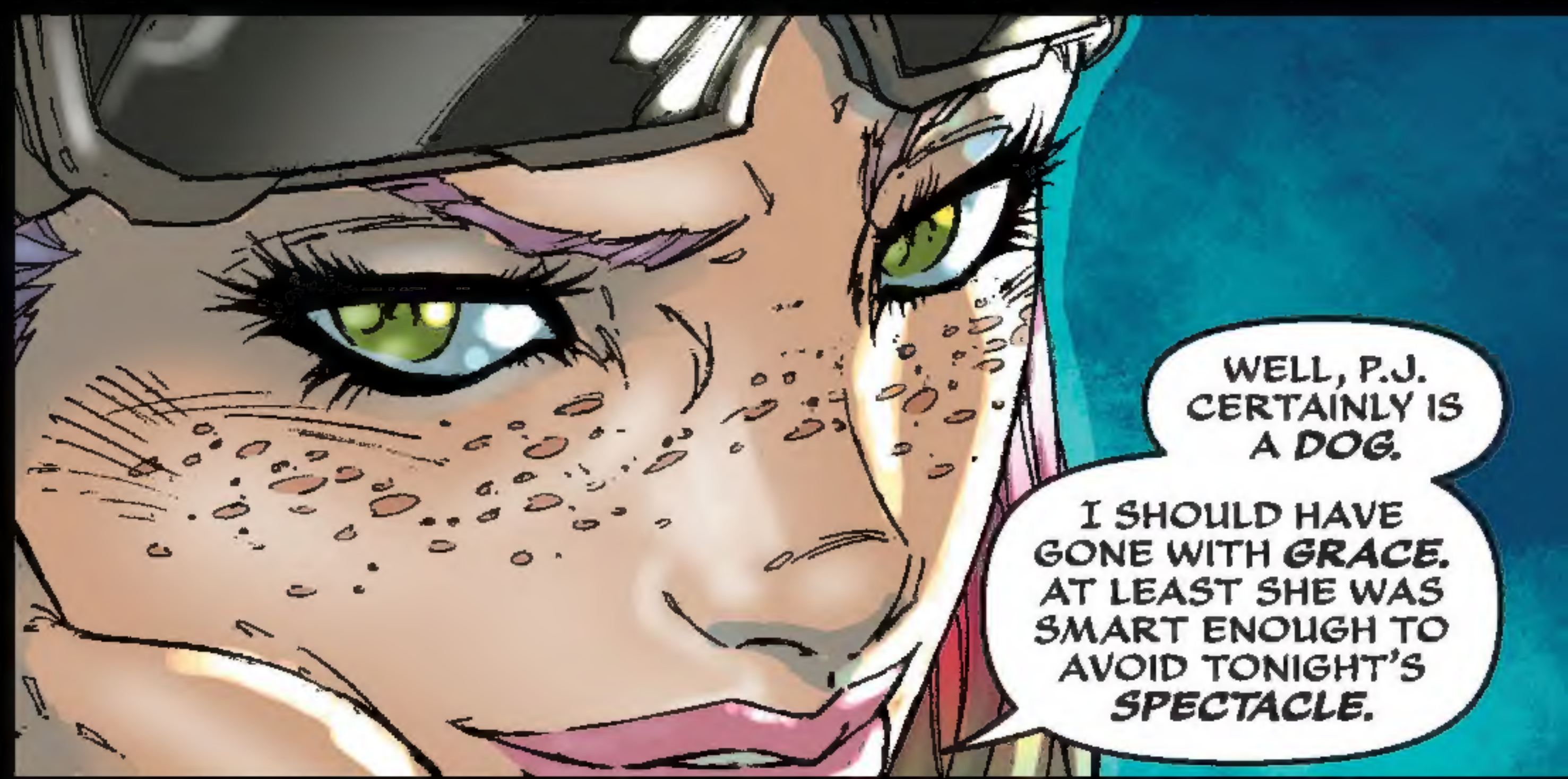
FAT CHANCE.
THESE ARENA *FIGHTS*
ARE ABOUT AS *DUMB* AS
YOU CAN GET. I MEAN--
WHAT'S THE POINT?



IT LETS THEM
TEST THEIR LATEST
INVENTIONS.

YOU MEAN
WEAPONS.

THINK OF IT AS A
HARMLESS WAY OF LETTING
OFF SOME *STEAM*. NO DIFFERENT
THAN A COUPLE OF *PUPPIES*
WRESTLING AROUND THE
BACKYARD.



WELL, P.J.
CERTAINLY IS
A *DOG*.

I SHOULD HAVE
GONE WITH *GRACE*.
AT LEAST SHE WAS
SMART ENOUGH TO
AVOID TONIGHT'S
SPECTACLE.



I DON'T THINK
THAT'S WHAT SHE
WAS *AVOIDING*.



YOU'RE DOWN
TO ABOUT TWENTY
PERCENT. BETTER END
THIS QUICK BEFORE
YOU RUN OUT OF
JUICE.

RELAX, PAPA
BEAR--



--I GOT THIS
COVERED.



BESIDES, YOU ARE
THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS
PREACHING TO ME ABOUT
NOT GETTING CAUGHT
UP ON POWER.



YOU SAY IT'S
PRECISION
THAT REALLY
MATTERS.



IT'S NICE TO
KNOW YOU **LISTEN--**
SOME OF THE TIME.



CHECKING UP ON ME, MALIKAI?

YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER. I'M FINE.

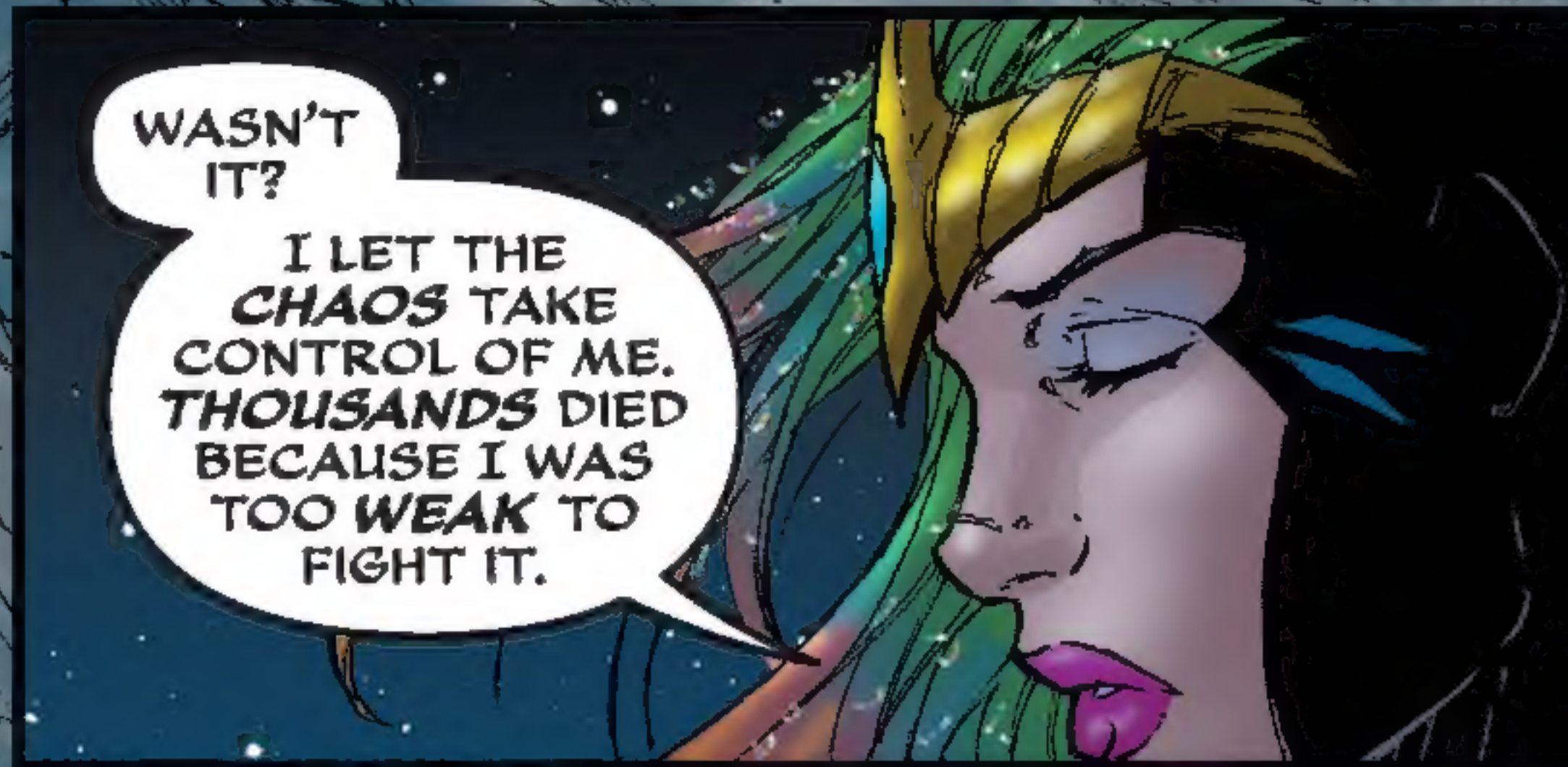
CLEARLY.



GRACE, YOU HAVE TO STOP DOING THIS.

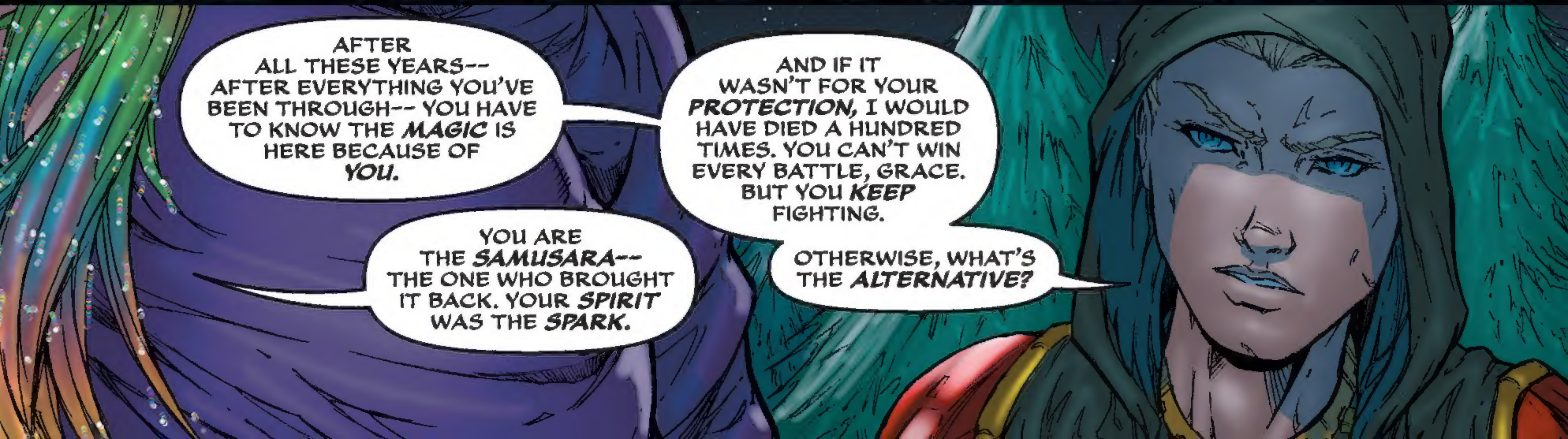
DOING WHAT?

PUNISHING YOURSELF. NONE OF IT WAS YOUR FAULT.



WASN'T IT?

I LET THE **CHAOS** TAKE CONTROL OF ME. **THOUSANDS** DIED BECAUSE I WAS TOO **WEAK** TO FIGHT IT.



AFTER ALL THESE YEARS-- AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH-- YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE **MAGIC** IS HERE BECAUSE OF **YOU**.

YOU ARE THE **SAMUSARA**-- THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT BACK. YOUR **SPIRIT** WAS THE **SPARK**.

AND IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR **PROTECTION**, I WOULD HAVE DIED A HUNDRED TIMES. YOU CAN'T WIN EVERY BATTLE, GRACE. BUT YOU **KEEP** FIGHTING.

OTHERWISE, WHAT'S THE **ALTERNATIVE**?



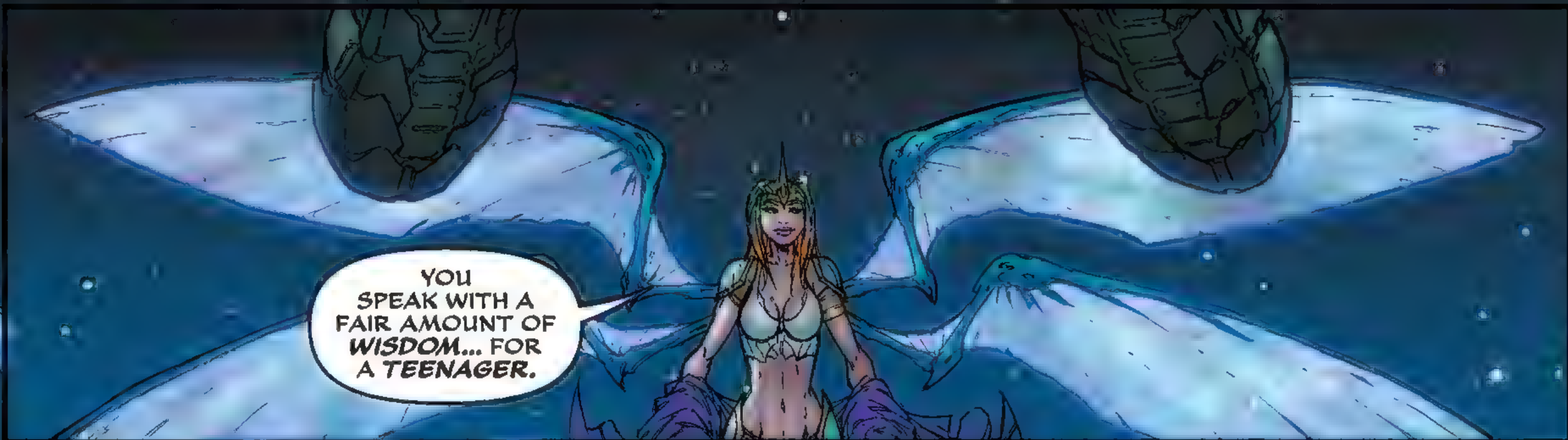
I CANNOT
EVEN BEGIN TO
FATHOM WHAT IT MUST
HAVE BEEN LIKE TO SURVIVE
FOR **CENTURIES**, WAITING
AND HOPING FOR A **NEW**
ERA OF MAGIC.

THESE AREN'T
THE **DARK AGES**
ANYMORE. DON'T LET
THE PAST HAUNT
YOUR PRESENT.

SIMPLY
ENJOY THIS
TIME IN THE
SUN.



ER,
MOON, I
GUESS.



YOU
SPEAK WITH A
FAIR AMOUNT OF
WISDOM... FOR
A **TEENAGER**.

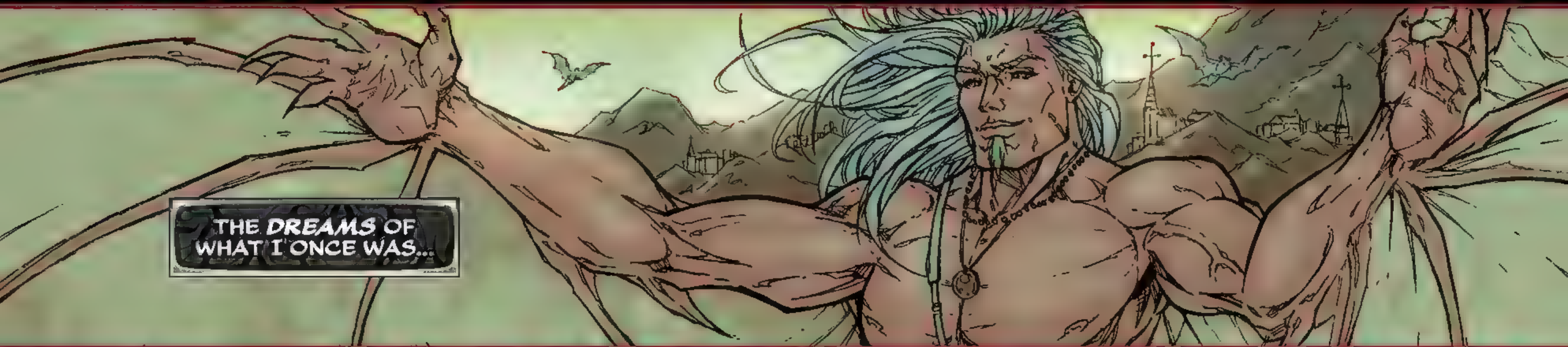


HEY, YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
KEEPS TELLING
ME I AM AN
OLD SOUL.

COME
ON, LET'S
FLY!

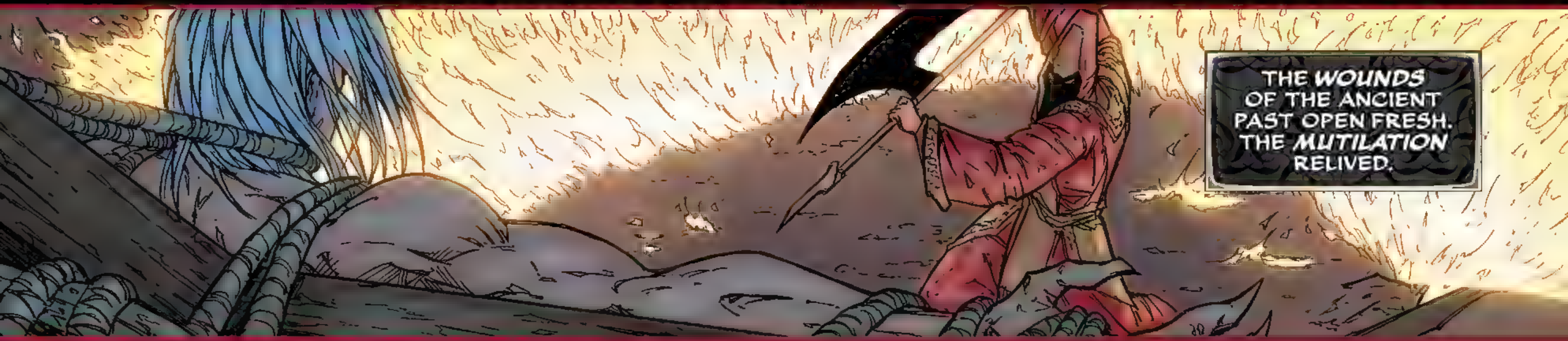
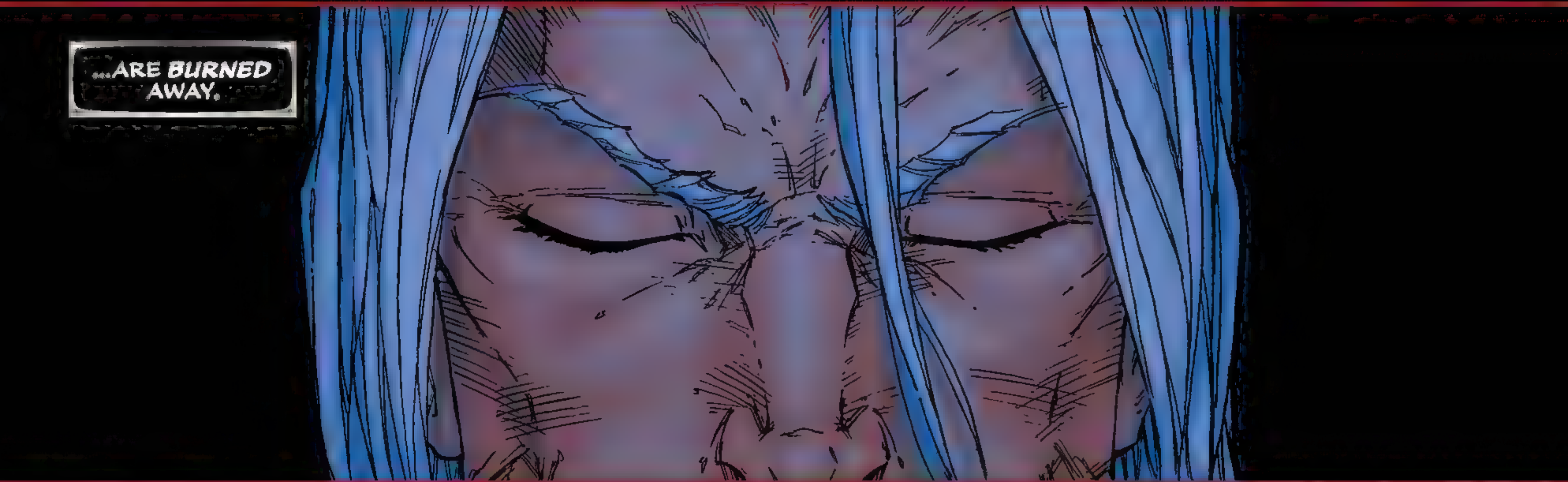


EVERY MORNING
STARTS THE SAME.



THE DREAMS OF
WHAT I ONCE WAS...

...ARE BURNED
AWAY.



THE WOUNDS
OF THE ANCIENT
PAST OPEN FRESH.
THE MUTILATION
RELIVED.

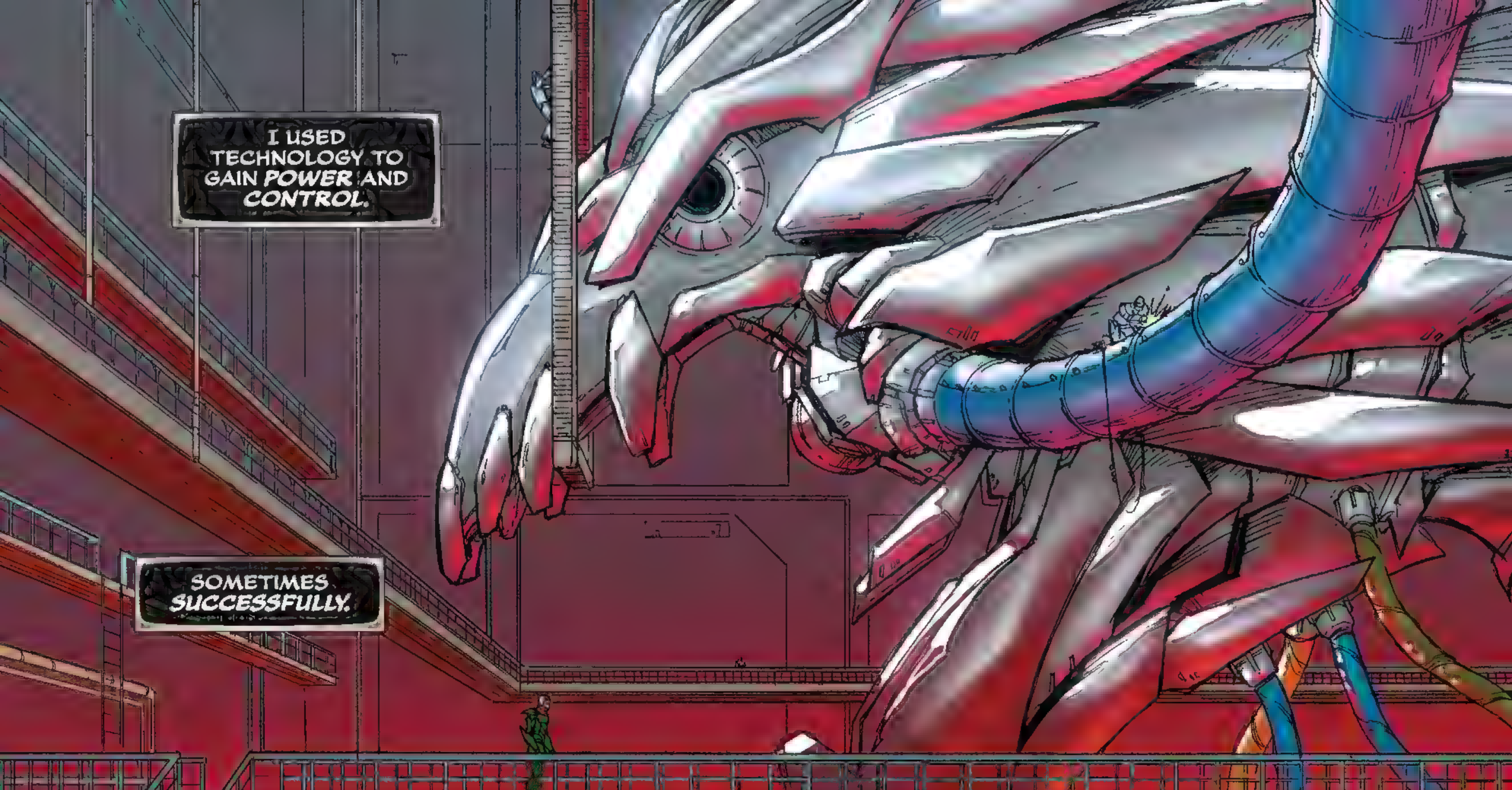


REMINING
ME OF WHAT I'VE
BECOME.

OVER THE
CENTURIES-- IN
THE ABSENCE OF
MAGIC, I TURNED
TO SCIENCE.

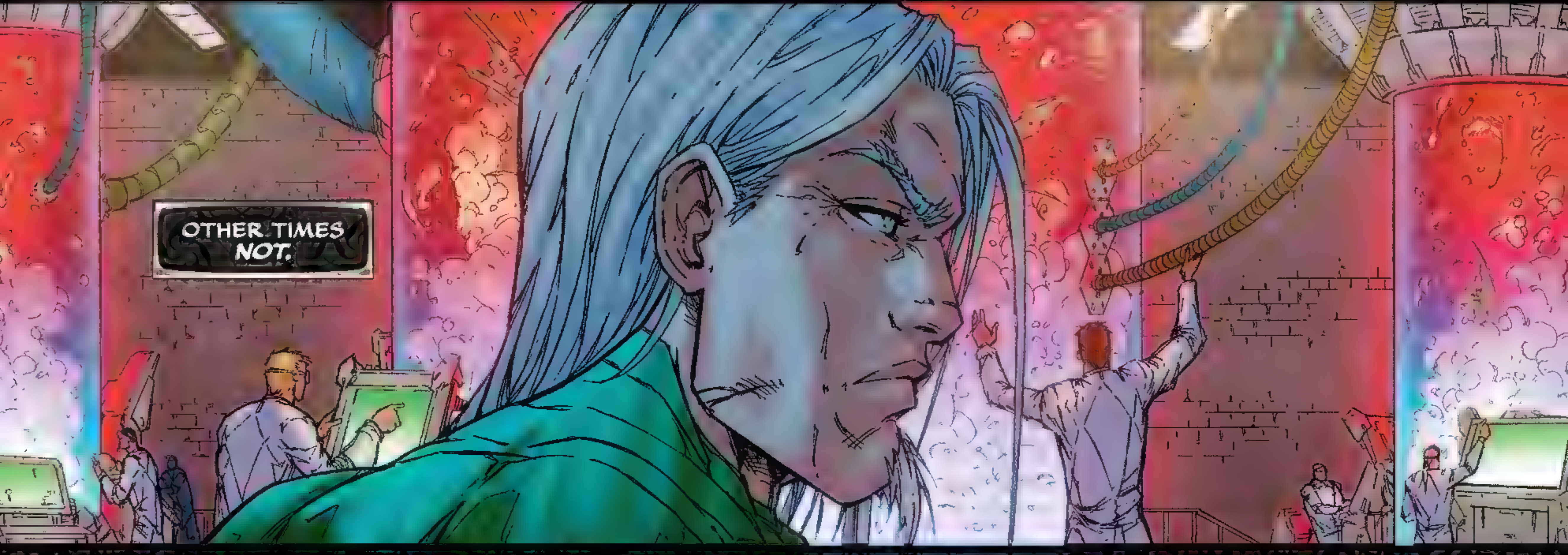
MASTERING
IT IN ORDER TO
REPLACE WHAT
I LOST.



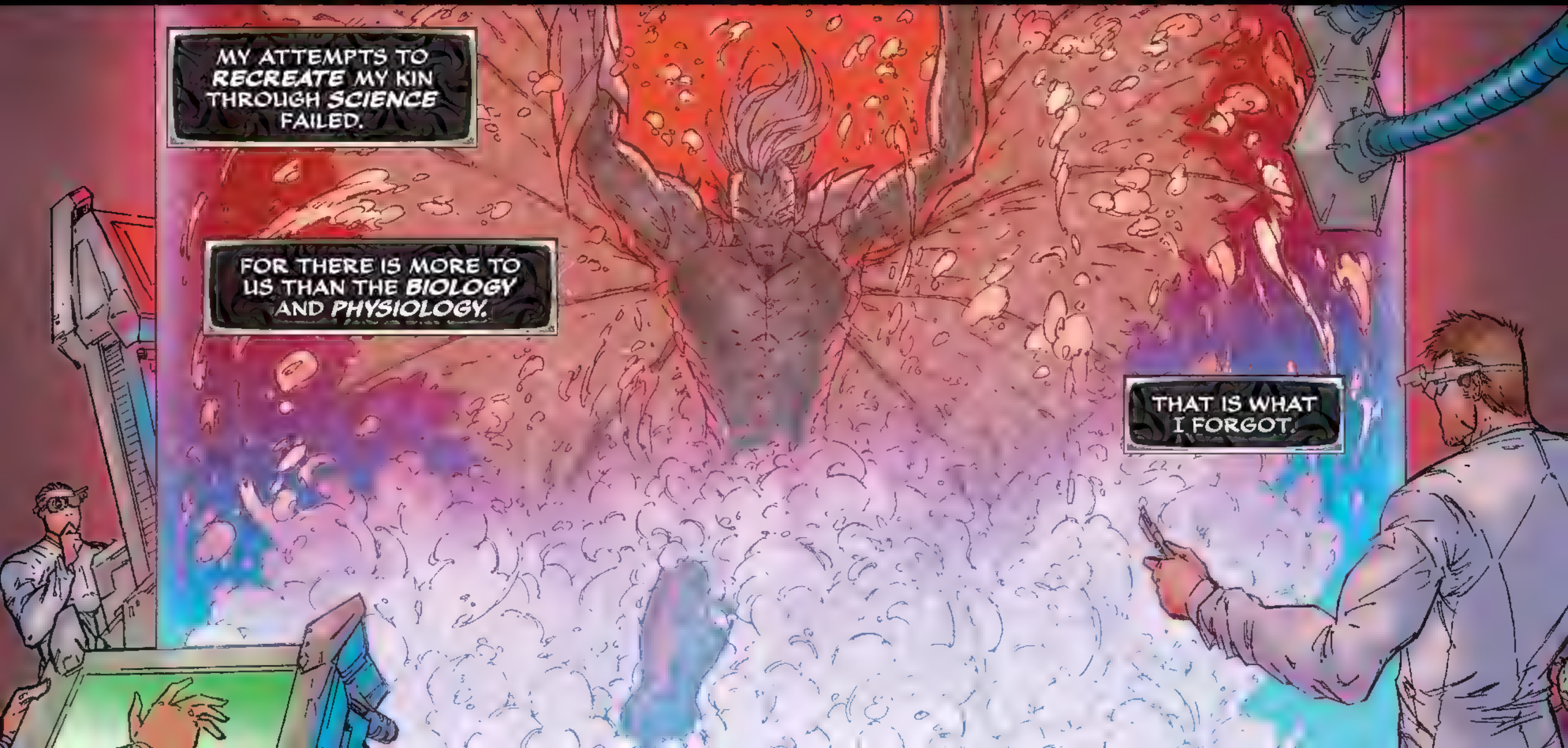


I USED
TECHNOLOGY TO
GAIN **POWER** AND
CONTROL.

SOMETIMES
SUCCESSFULLY.



OTHER TIMES
NOT.



MY ATTEMPTS TO
RECREATE MY KIN
THROUGH **SCIENCE**
FAILED.

FOR THERE IS MORE TO
US THAN THE **BIOLOGY**
AND **PHYSIOLOGY.**

THAT IS WHAT
I FORGOT.

WE ARE NOT ONLY
CONNECTED TO THE
DRAGONS. WE ARE
CONNECTED TO THE
MAGIC AS WELL.

I MUST
EMBRACE THAT
FACT.

I KNOW
THAT, NOW.

I MUST BE REBORN.





THAT
THING MUST
HAVE WEIGHED
A COUPLE TONS.
BUT NO MATTER.
I STILL **SMOKED**
HIS METAL
BUTT.

FOR FUTURE
REFERENCE, P.J.-- THIS
ISN'T MEANT FOR ZERO-
DISTANCE DEPLOYMENT. YOU
MELTED THE BARREL WITH
THAT LAST **STUNT**.

GOTTA DO
ANYTHING YOU
CAN TO WIN,
DON'T YA?



IF
YOU SAY
SO.



JUST
DON'T WANT
TO SEE YOU GET
CAUGHT WITH YOUR
PANTS DOWN
NEXT TIME.

HEY, DON'T
WORRY, **B.** I
WON'T LET YOU
DOWN ON THE
BIG STAGE.



BIG STAGE?
WHAT'S HE **TALKING**
ABOUT?

UM--

--YOU SEE...
THE **THING**
IS...



SO CHECK IT OUT--
EVERY YEAR, THERE'S THIS
HUGE COMPETITION. **TECHIES**
FROM ALL OVER THE **WORLD** COME
TO DO BATTLE. TO SHOW THEIR
STUFF. SEE WHO'S
THE **BEST**.

NOW, **BENOIST**
HASN'T GONE IN THE PAST
FEW YEARS, BUT THIS YEAR
HE'S AGREED TO ATTEND--
AS MY **COACH**.



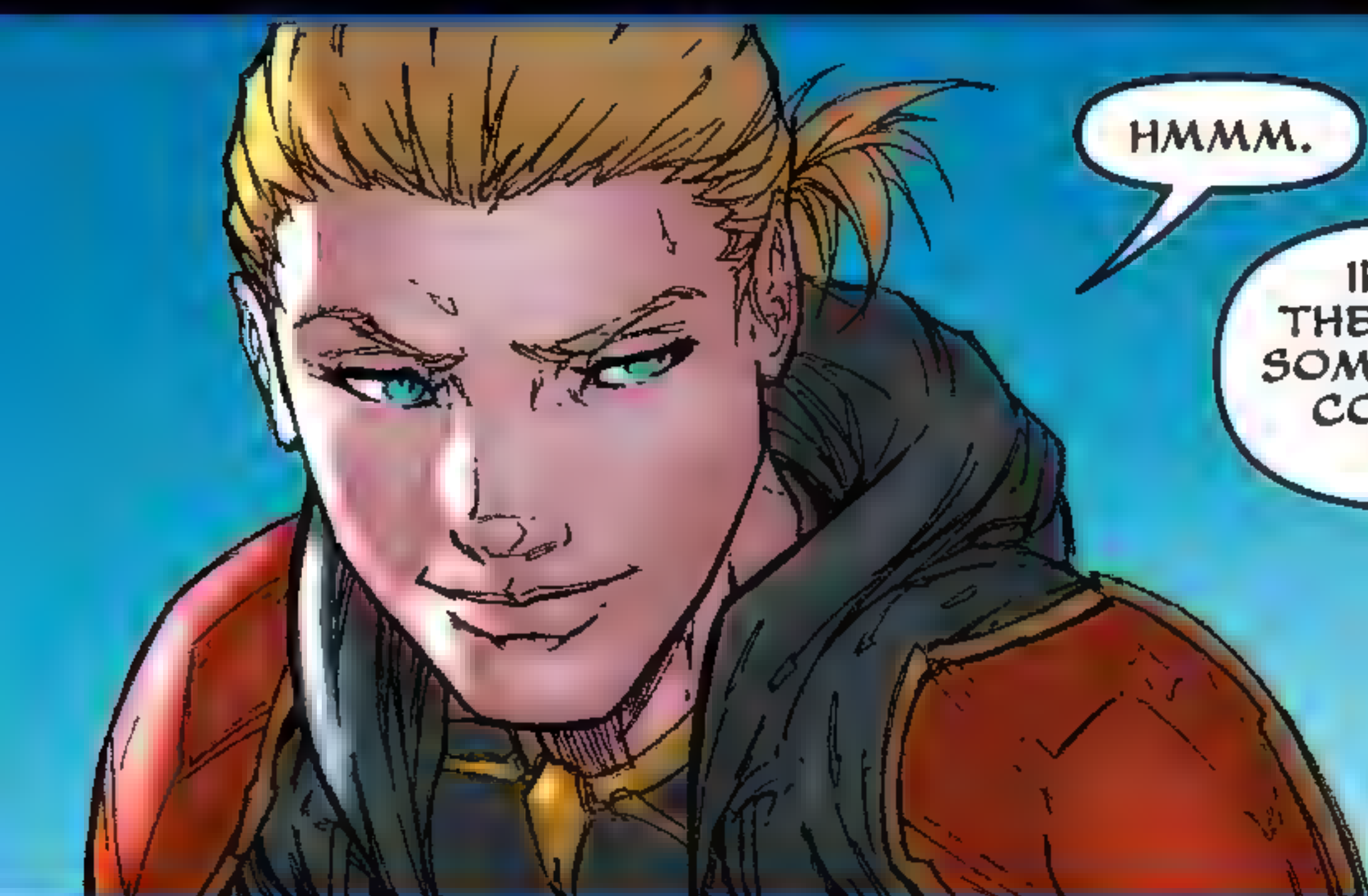
SERIOUS? **MORE**
FIGHTING?

YOU WANT
TO GO **BLUDGEON**
ONE ANOTHER WITH
WRENCHES, BE MY
GUEST. BUT I THINK
I'LL PASS.



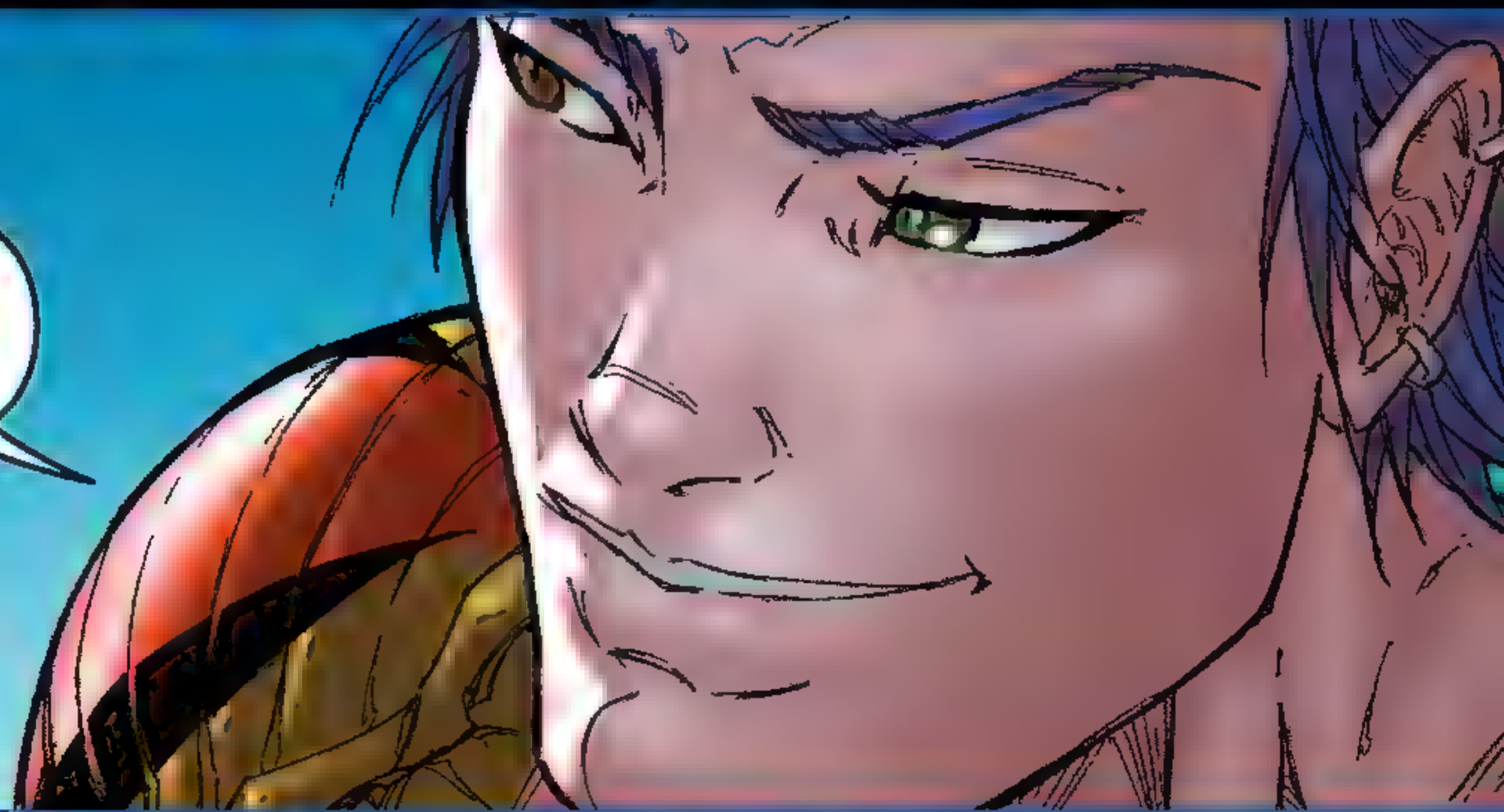
IF YOU ASK ME,
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH MINDLESS
VIOLENCE TO LAST US AWHILE.
DON'T YOU THINK?

SONIA,
DON'T BE THAT
WAY.



HMMM.

IF ONLY
THERE WERE
SOME WAY TO
CONVINCE
HER...



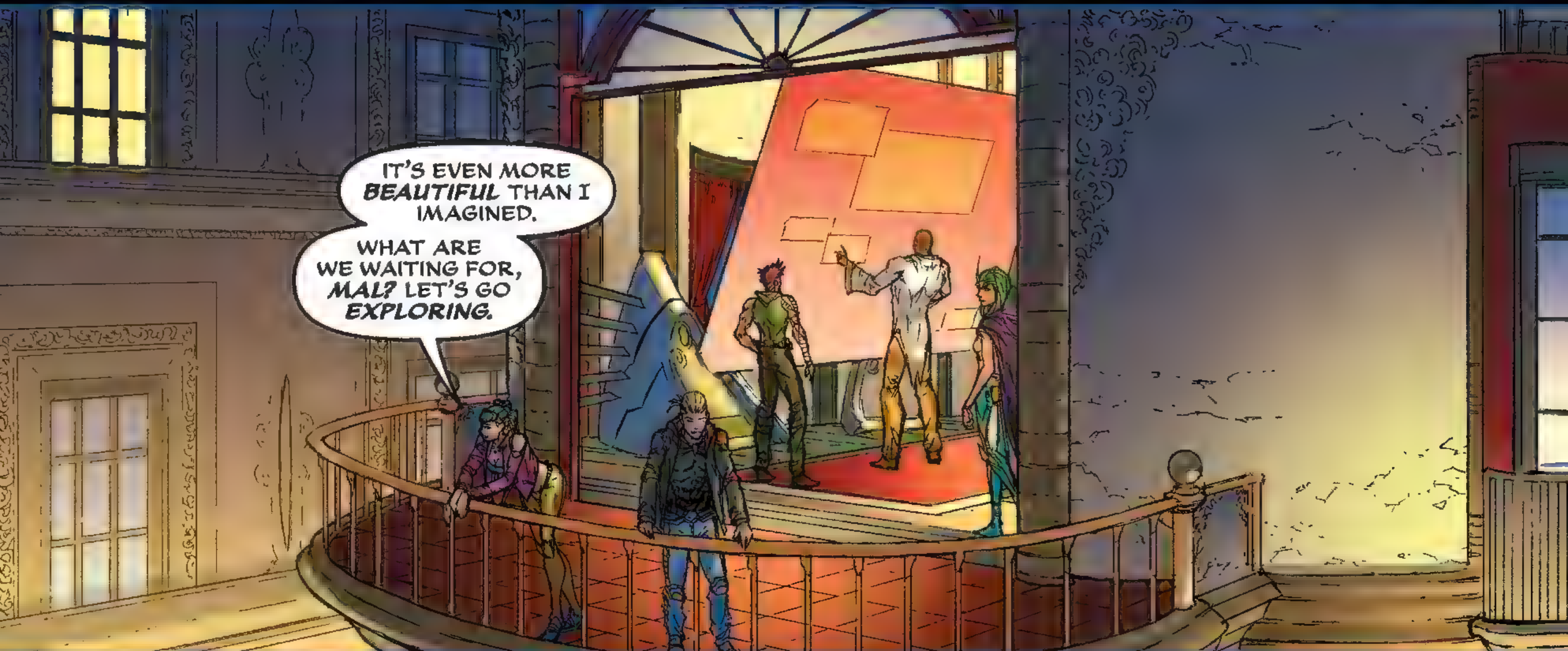
DID WE
MENTION IT'S
IN **PARIS**?

PARIS?



OOOOHHH!
I'VE NEVER BEEN
THERE.

SOUNDS
ROMANTIC.



IT'S EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL THAN I
IMAGINED.

WHAT ARE
WE WAITING FOR,
MAL? LET'S GO
EXPLORING.



I HEAR
THAT. AFTER THE
LONG FLIGHT, I FEEL
LIKE STRETCHING MY LEGS
AND SEEING THE SIGHTS.
ESPECIALLY SOME
MADMOISELLES.

THE FLIGHT
TOOK LESS THAN
THREE HOURS.

IT SURE **FELT**
LONGER.

SORRY, P.J.
I KNOW HOW
MUCH YOU VALUE
YOUR **LOVE LIFE**,
BUT YOU GOT
WORK TO
DO.

WORK?



DON'T
YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHAT YOU
ARE GOING UP
AGAINST?

YEAH.

THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT. THE
REST OF YOU--
HAVE FUN.



I'M GLAD YOU TALKED ME INTO COMING, MALIKAI.

YEAH, WELL--- I FIGURED YOU COULD USE A **CHANGE OF SCENERY**.

THE **ARCHITECTURE** IS BREATHTAKING. UNLIKE MANY MODERN CITIES, PARIS HAS MAINTAINED A SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH ITS **HISTORY**.



THE **MUSÉE D'ORSAY** IS DOWN THE STREET. IT OPENS AT TEN, BUT IT'S CLOSED TOMORROW.

AND, THEN THERE'S THE **MUSÉE RODIN**, THE **CENTRE GEORGES POMPIDOU**, AND OF COURSE, THE **LOUVRE**. BUT THERE, WE GOT TO LINE UP EARLY. MOST CROWDED DAY OF THE WEEK IS WEDNESDAY.

HERE'S A **VIRTUAL TOUR** OF THE **NOTRE DAME**.

MUNCHEEZ SAYS WE GOT TO TRY THE PASTRIES AT **FAIRE DU LECHE- VITRINE**, WHICH LITERALLY MEANS "**WINDOW LICKING**."



SONIA--- HOW ABOUT YOU PULL YOUR FACE OUT OF YOUR TRAVEL GUIDE AND ACTUALLY LOOK AROUND YOU. SEE THE REAL THING.

THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR, MY FRIENDS. WE ARE NO CULT. WE ARE NOT WITCHES.



WE SEEK THE **MAGIQUE**.



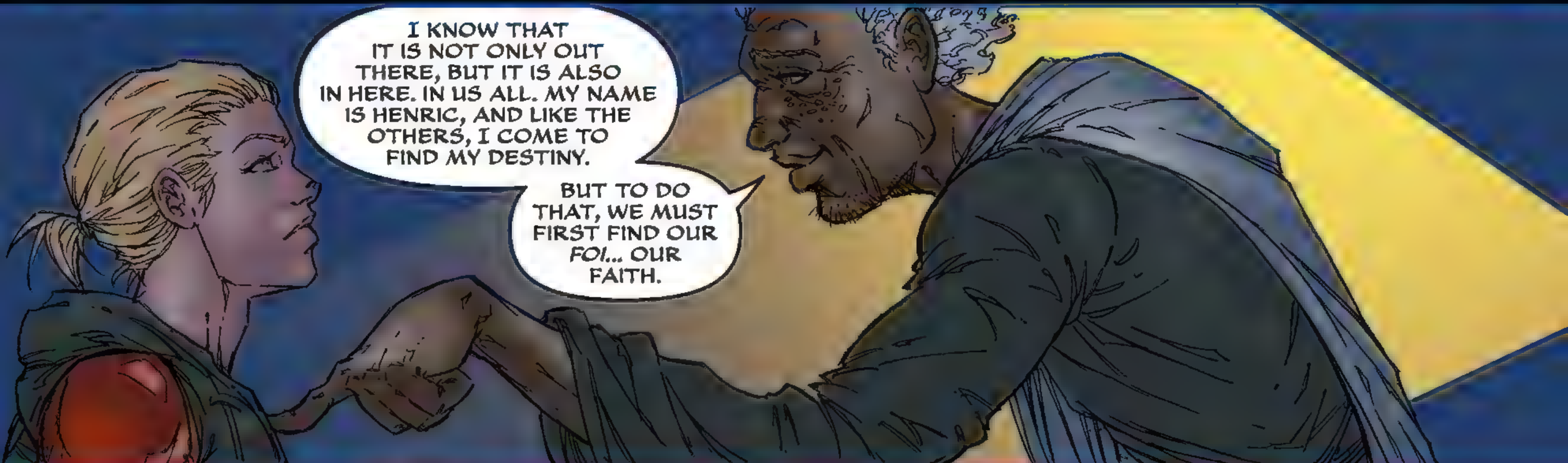
YES. SUCH AN ENERGY-- ALL AROUND US. IT FLOATS, DOES IT NOT? SOFT IN THE WIND. LIKE A SECRET. IT'S GABRIEL'S VOICE, AND WE ARE LISTENING.



YEAH, YEAH. THE LIGHT OF MAGIC.

WHOO-DEE DOO. MOVING ON.

AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MAGIC?



I KNOW THAT IT IS NOT ONLY OUT THERE, BUT IT IS ALSO IN HERE. IN US ALL. MY NAME IS HENRIC, AND LIKE THE OTHERS, I COME TO FIND MY DESTINY.

BUT TO DO THAT, WE MUST FIRST FIND OUR FOI... OUR FAITH.



SEEMS YOUR FRIEND DOES NOT BELIEVE.

GRACE?

MY HEART BREAKS
SIMPLY BEING NEAR
ANOTHER **TEMPLE**
OF HOPEFUL SOULS.

THE LAST TIME I WALKED
THROUGH SUCH DOORS, I
HURT THEM.

THEY ALL **DIED**
BECAUSE OF ME.

I KNOW MALIKAI
IS RIGHT. I CAN'T
BLAME MYSELF FOR
WHAT HAPPENED.
MY BODY MAY HAVE
CAUSED GREAT
CARNAGE, BUT MY
SOUL WAS **TRAPPED**
ELSEWHERE.

I WAS A
VESSEL FOR A **DEMON**
OF **CHAOS**.

SO, WHY DO I
STILL FEEL LIKE A
MONSTER?

WHO'S
THERE?

«PARDON,
I DID NOT
MEAN TO
FRIGHTEN
YOU.»



BELLE
AILES...*

*TRANSLATED
FROM FRENCH,
"BEAUTIFUL
WINGS."

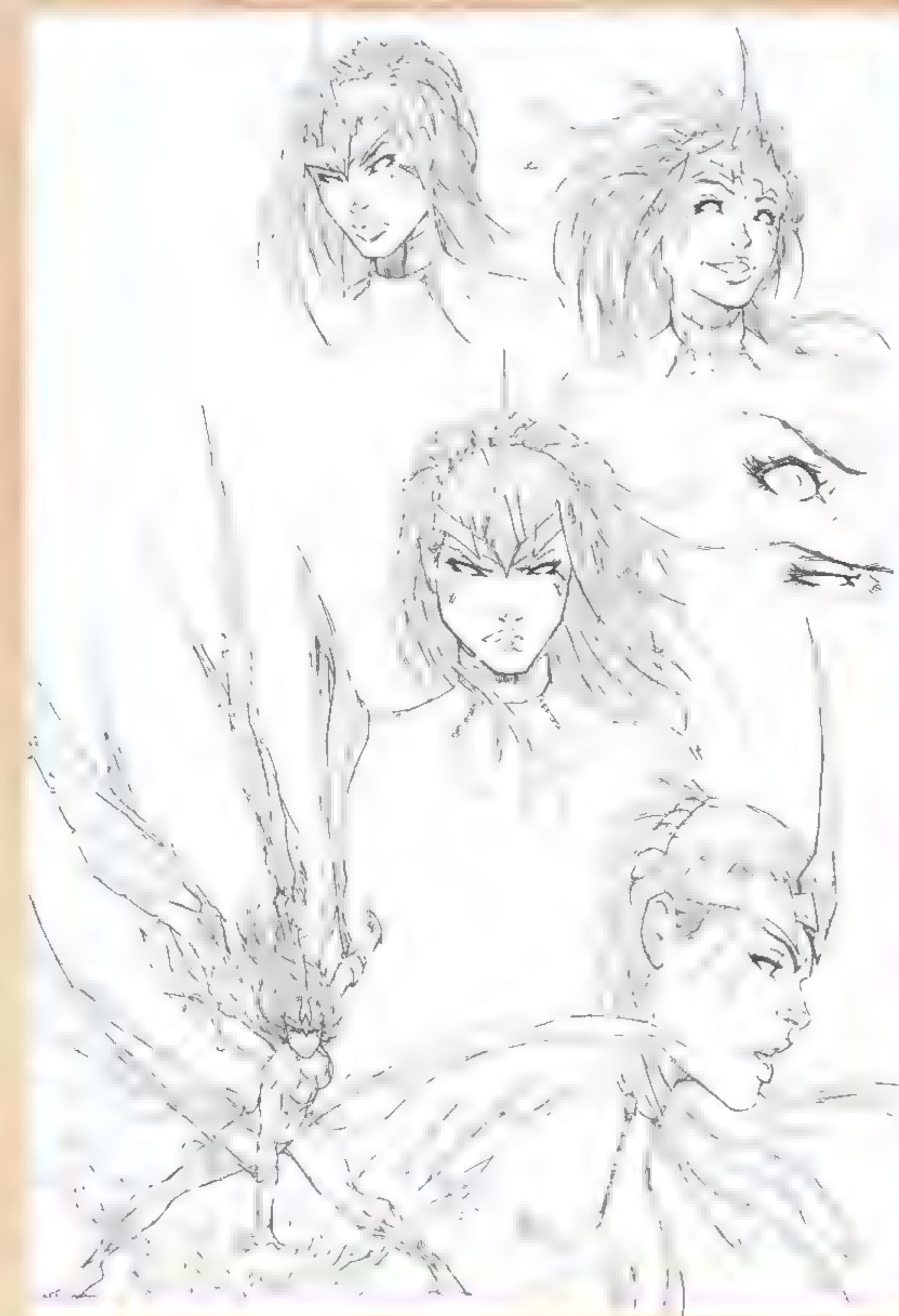
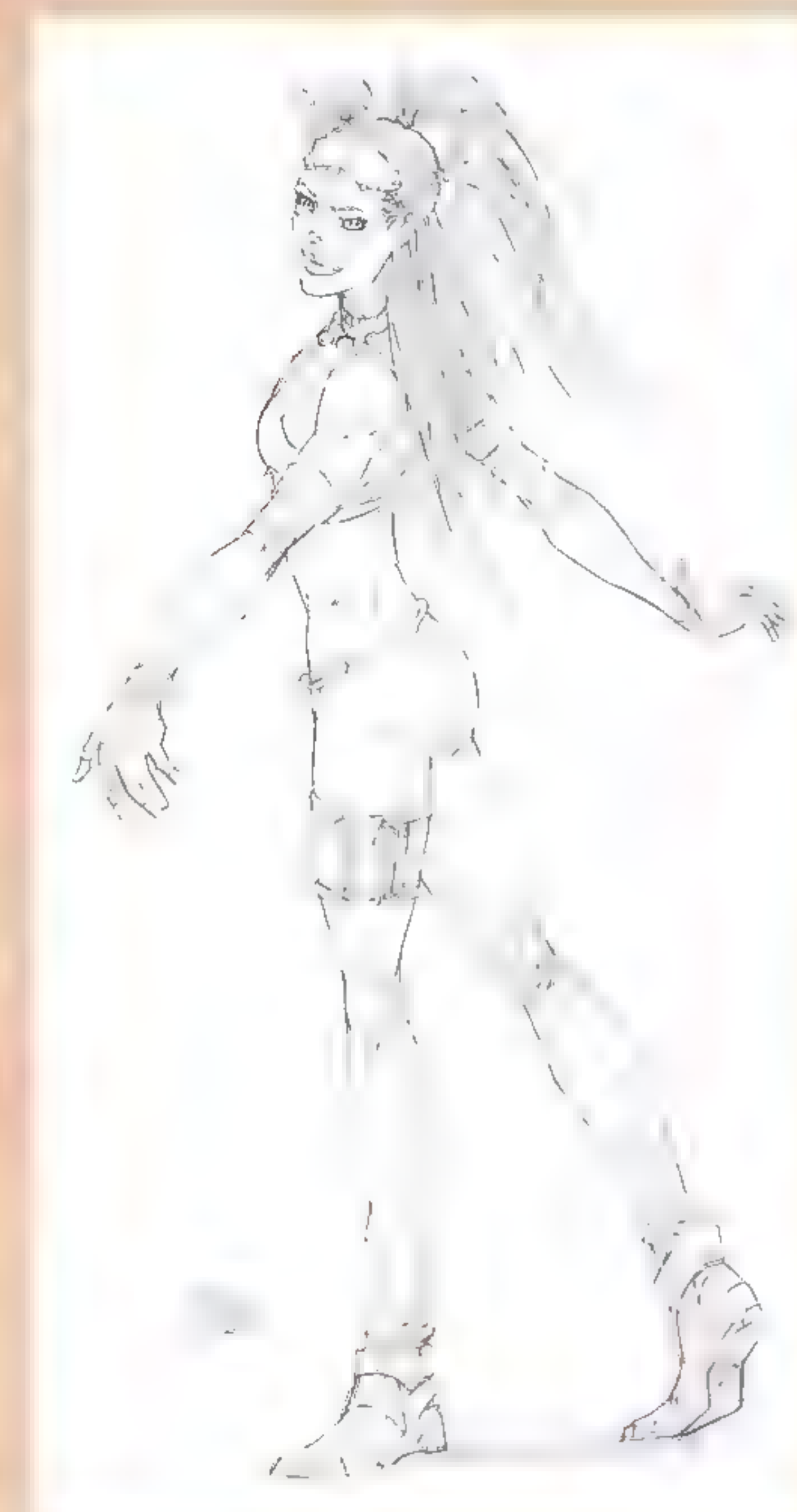
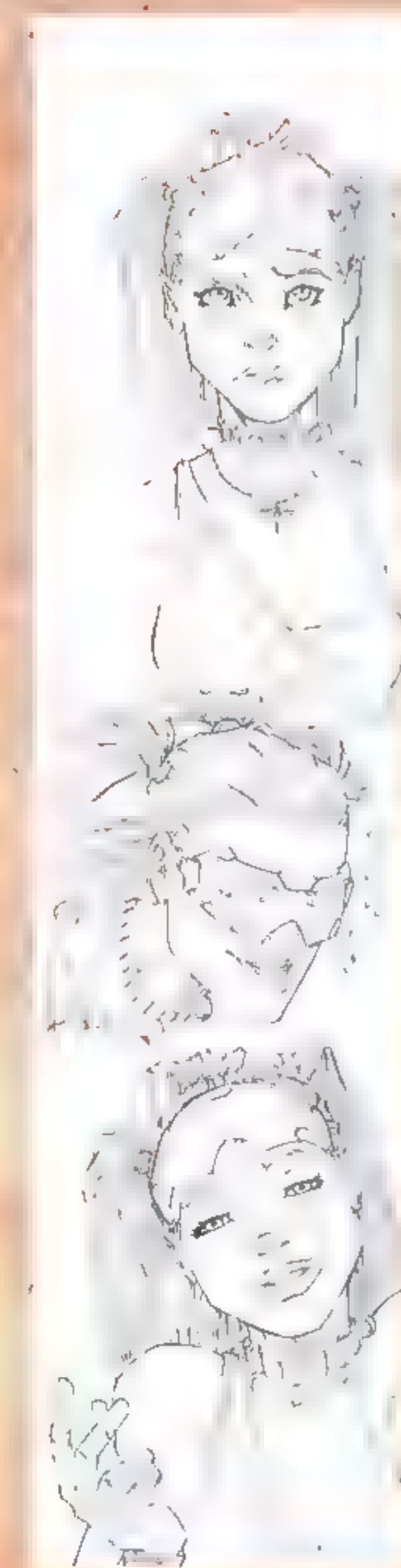
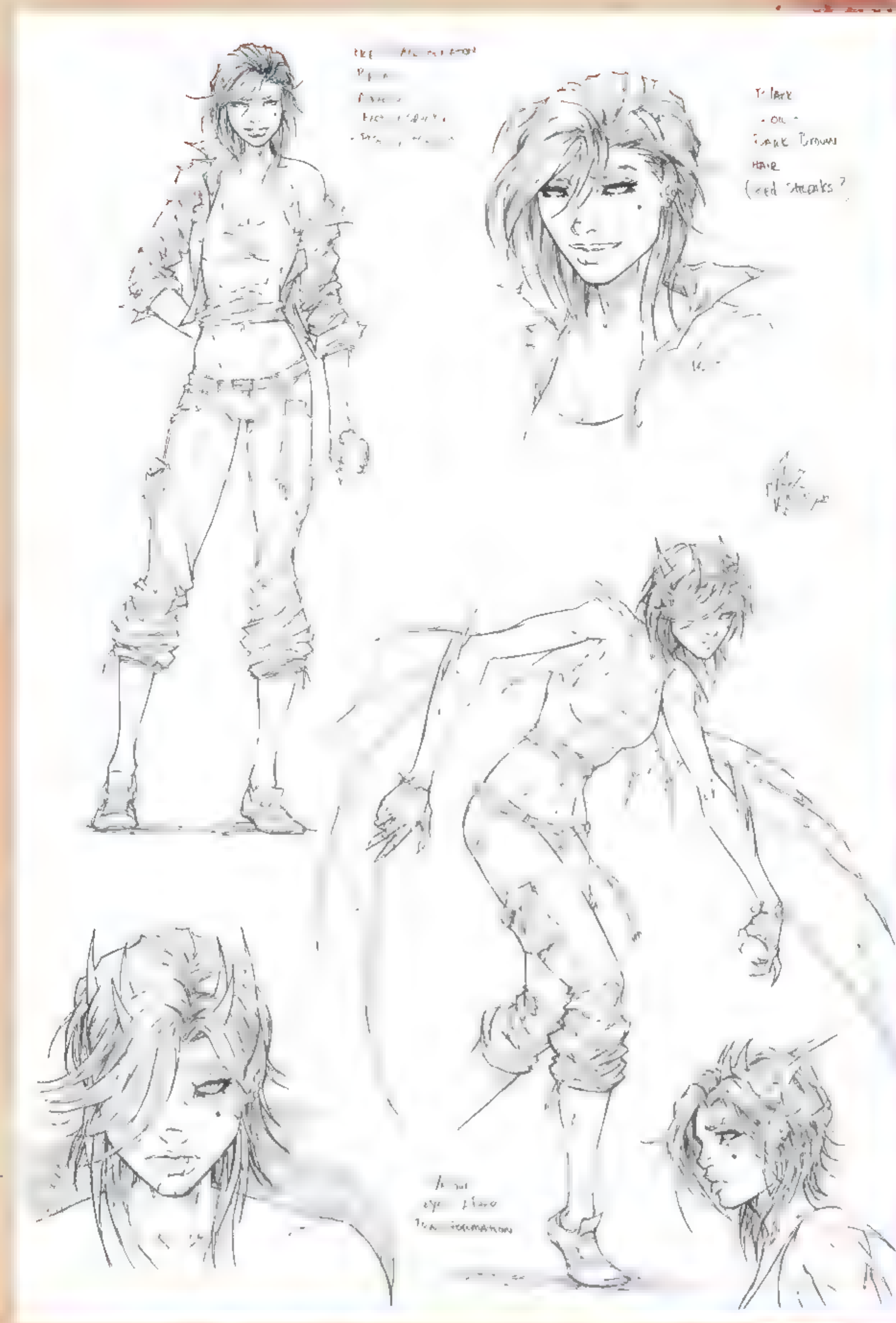
The process of magic

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™

By J.T. KRUL

Design by Mark Roslan

Sketches by series artist, V Ken Marion



FIRST and foremost, Aspen thrives at finding the best, up-and-coming artists to bring their stories to life - and this time they've picked someone who really channels the energy and flair that Michael Turner brought to his work - V. Ken Marion. Never has Malikai, Grace, Benoist, and the rest looked so familiar to me. After wowing us with his work on *FATHOM: THE ELITE SAGA*, we knew that Ken was the artist that could usher in this **ALL NEW SOULFIRE**.

Since Michael and Jeph Loeb first introduced us to

the fantastical world of **SOULFIRE**, the emphasis has always been on adventure. Now, as we launch the fifth volume of the series, it's never been truer. At its heart, **SOULFIRE** is the story of a world experiencing the return of magic. The previous volume took our favorite characters beyond this realm where they encountered the very gods of all existence. But this time, we are grounded firmly in this futuristic society as the energy of magic begins to outshine any marvels of modern technology - because part of what makes this title special is seeing the effects of magic's return on the world at large.

Case in point is **VANYSS** - a new addition to the **SOULFIRE** universe. She was living a good life, minding her own business, working her way through college, and enjoying fun in the sun with her boyfriend. But all that changed when the surge of magic burst across the world, and she found herself changing in unsuspecting ways. For the design, we wanted to try something different from the usual *Rahtumi* or *Sethoru* style and gave her an almost gargoyle vibe - which works perfectly with the European setting for the story. It's always great having at least one character that is new to the notion of magic,

giving the reader a chance to experience that initial reaction to the wonders (and dangers) of magic.

We've got big plans for this volume - from PJ and his cybertech battle royale to Malikai and his encounter with the followers of Gabriel's Voice. And we haven't even mentioned **RAINIER**, but we should - as this story will see him go through a major transformation of self-discovery. Keep reading. Ten years strong and **SOULFIRE** has never been better!

—J.T. KRUL

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

J.T. KRUL • V. Ken MARION • ERICK ARCINIEGA • JOSH REED



#2
COVER A

10
FOR
10

ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE



#2
COVER B

10
FEB
10

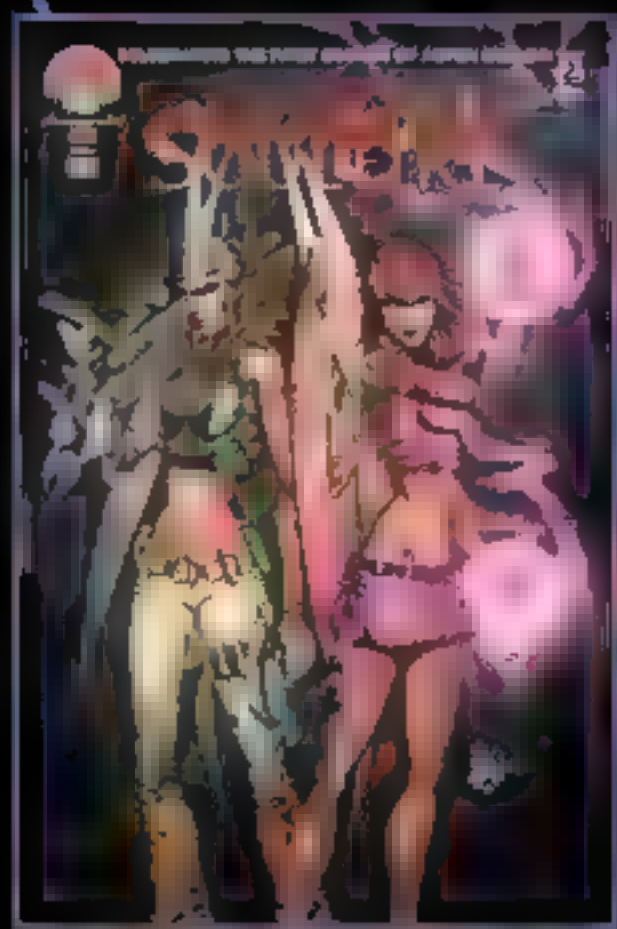
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh R. D.

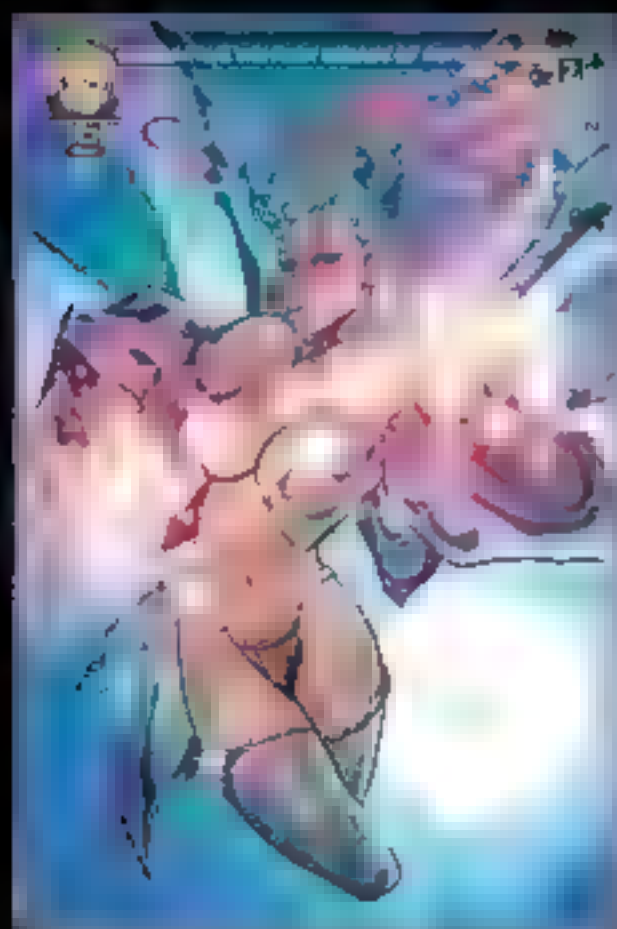


ALL-NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

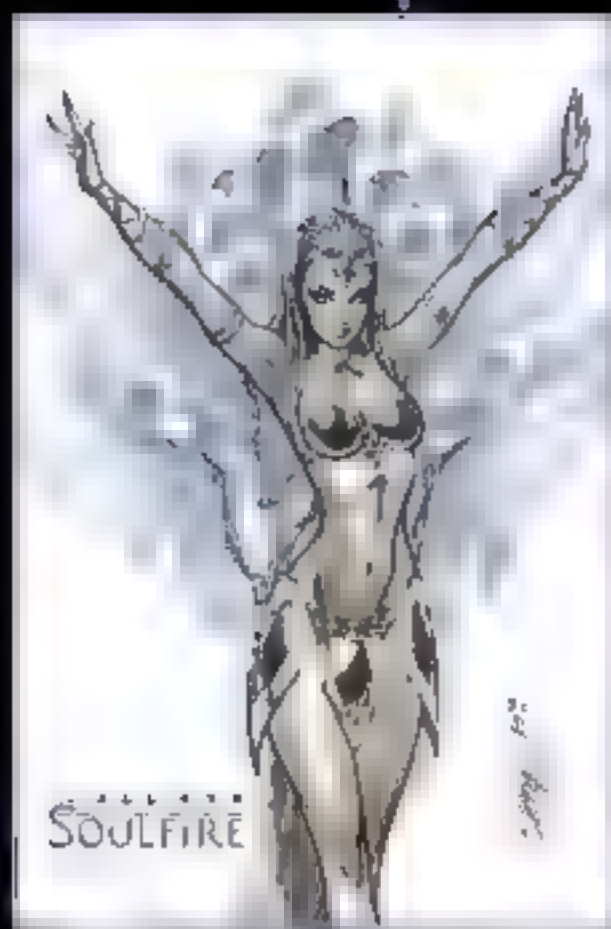




A
DIRECT EDITION
BY -V KEN MARION
& JOHN STARR



B
SPECIAL RESERVED EDITION
BY -JOE BENITEZ
& PETER STEIGERWALD



C
RETAILER INCENTIVE EDITION
BY -J. SCOTT CAMPBELL



D
ASPENSTORE.COM
BOXING DAY EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION OF 200
BY -J. SCOTT CAMPBELL
& PETER STEIGERWALD

J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA,
KYLE RITTER

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

soulfire created by michael turner

"Ladies Night"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

GRACE ATTEMPTED TO RECONCILE HER RECENT DEVASTATING TRANSFORMATION AND SUBSEQUENT RETURN, BUT FINDS THAT A LIFE WITH MAGIC PRESENT CAN BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT THAN WHEN IT WAS LOST. SHE FOLLOWS MALIKAI AND THE CROWD TO PARIS, FRANCE IN ORDER TO SEE PL-TEST HIS TECHNOLOGY ACUMEN ON THE BIG STAGE IN COMPETITION. HOWEVER, GRACE DISCOVERS NOT JUST A CITY TEEMING WITH CULTURE, BUT A YOUNG GIRL WITH WINGS UNLIKE ANY SHE'S EVER SEEN BEFORE...

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issue 2

DECEMBER 2013. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite. III, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and its logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. Stan Lee's Comikaze logo are registered trademarks of the Advanstar Communications Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2013 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

FOR ASPEN:
Founder: MICHAEL TURNER
Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD
Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO
Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ
Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED
Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS
Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL
AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP
Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1 888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@GFLOYSTUDIO.COM]



I'M VANYSS.
WHAT'S YOUR
NAME?

GRACE.

FIGURES.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



LOOK AT YOUR
WINGS. THEY'RE
BEAUTIFUL. BUT
MINE-- THEY ARE
FREAKISH.

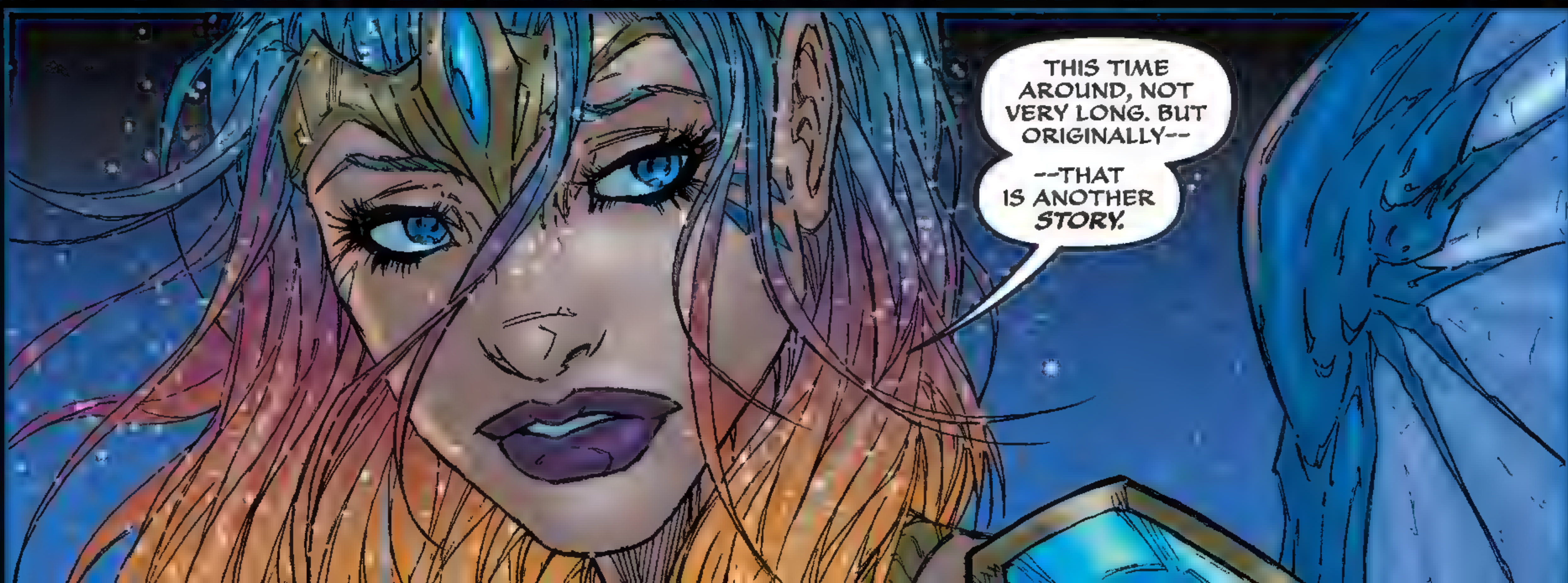
PERHAPS I AM MERELY
IN A DEVELOPMENT STAGE--
A LARVA STAGE. AND SOON,
I WILL TRANSFORM. BECOME
A BUTTERFLY OR A SWAN,
OR WHATEVER ANALOGY
YOU PREFER.



SEEING
YOU GIVES ME *HOPE*.
I THOUGHT I WAS LOSING
MY MIND. THAT I WAS
LIKE ONE OF THESE
GARGOYLES.

I HAVE HEARD
THE STORIES ABOUT
GABRIEL'S VOICE AND
ALL THEIR TALK ABOUT
MAGIC. I THOUGHT THEY
MIGHT BE LIKE ME. BUT
THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT
THAN EVERYONE
ELSE.

YOUR *WINGS*?
PLEASE TELL ME--
HOW LONG HAVE
YOU HAD THEM?



THIS TIME
AROUND, NOT
VERY LONG. BUT
ORIGINALLY--

--THAT
IS ANOTHER
STORY.



THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, THE WORLD WAS VERY DIFFERENT. THERE WERE MANY CREATURES SOARING IN THE SKIES-- NONE MORE BLESSED THAN THE DRAGONS.

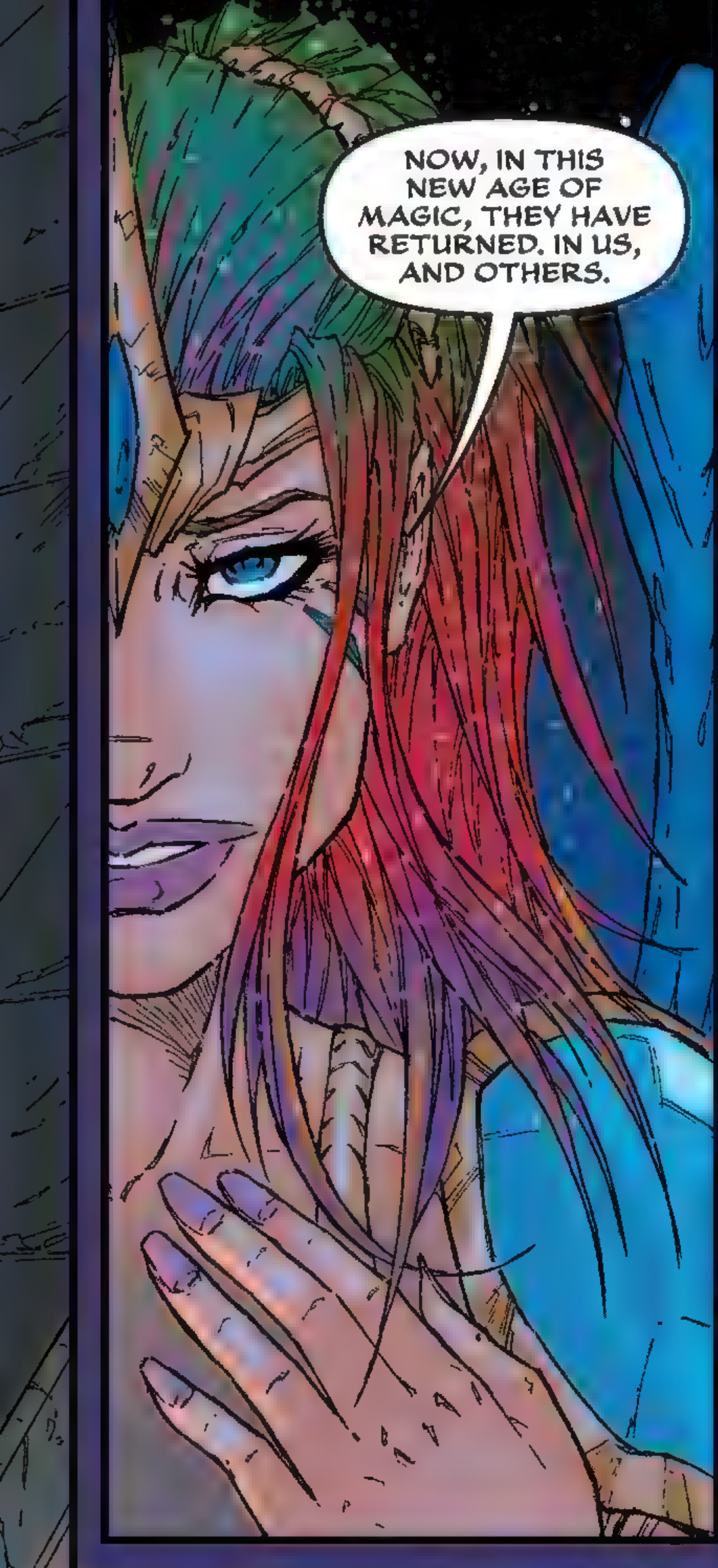
WHEN *MAGIC* DOMINATED THE WORLD, BOTH ANCIENT RACES-- THE *RAHTUMI* AND THE *SETHORU* HAD WINGS AND THE POWER OF FLIGHT.

IT MEANT THAT YOU HAD A VERY STRONG CONNECTION WITH THE MAGIC.

WITH THE DYING OF THE LIGHT, THE MAGIC FADED. THE DRAGONS ALL DIED, AS DID MOST OF THE REST OF US. THOSE THAT SURVIVED PAID ANOTHER PRICE.

WE LOST OUR MAGIC.

WE LOST OUR WINGS.



NOW, IN THIS
NEW AGE OF
MAGIC, THEY HAVE
RETURNED. IN US,
AND OTHERS.



I'M SORRY,
BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT
YOU ARE LIKE MY PEOPLE, THE
RAHTUMI. OR THE SETHORU
FOR THAT MATTER.

YOU DO
REMIND ME OF A
STORY. ALMOST A MYTH--
ABOUT FIERCE CREATURES
CALLED THE *NAITALI*. THEY WERE
TOLD TO BE VICIOUS. AND
TERRORIZED MY KIND
FOR GENERATIONS.

WOW, THAT'S
REALLY... UM...
CHEERFUL.



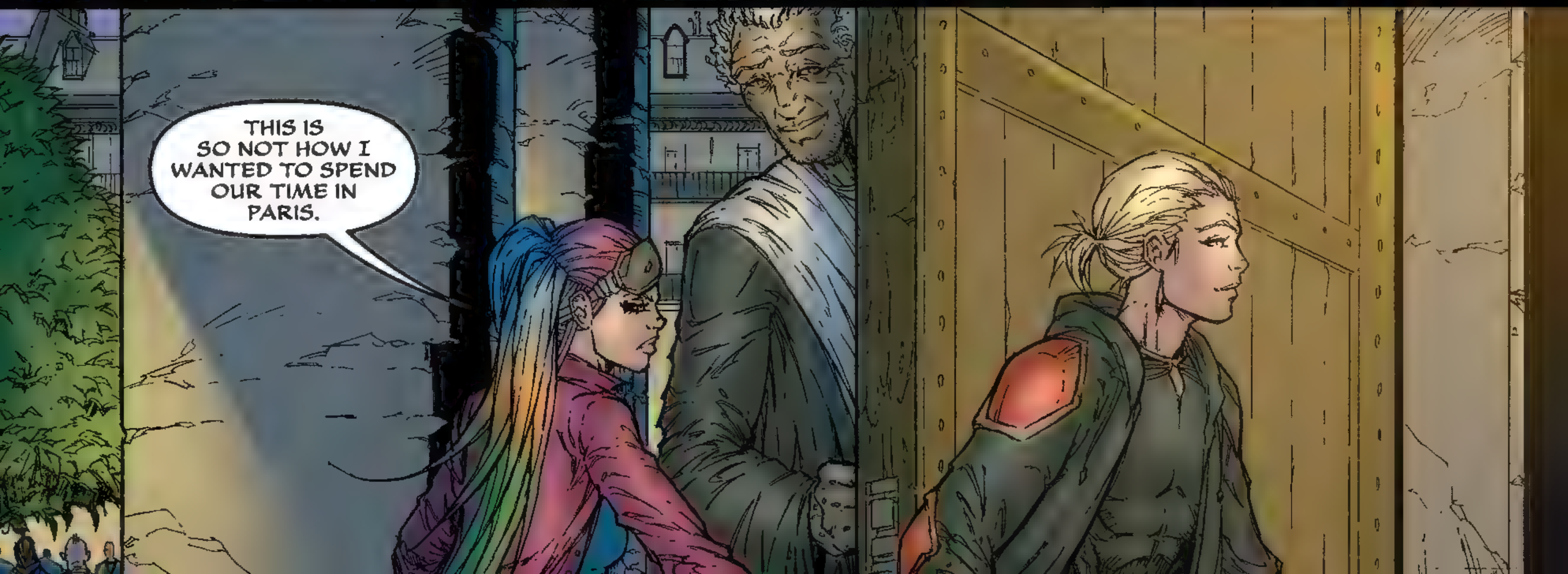
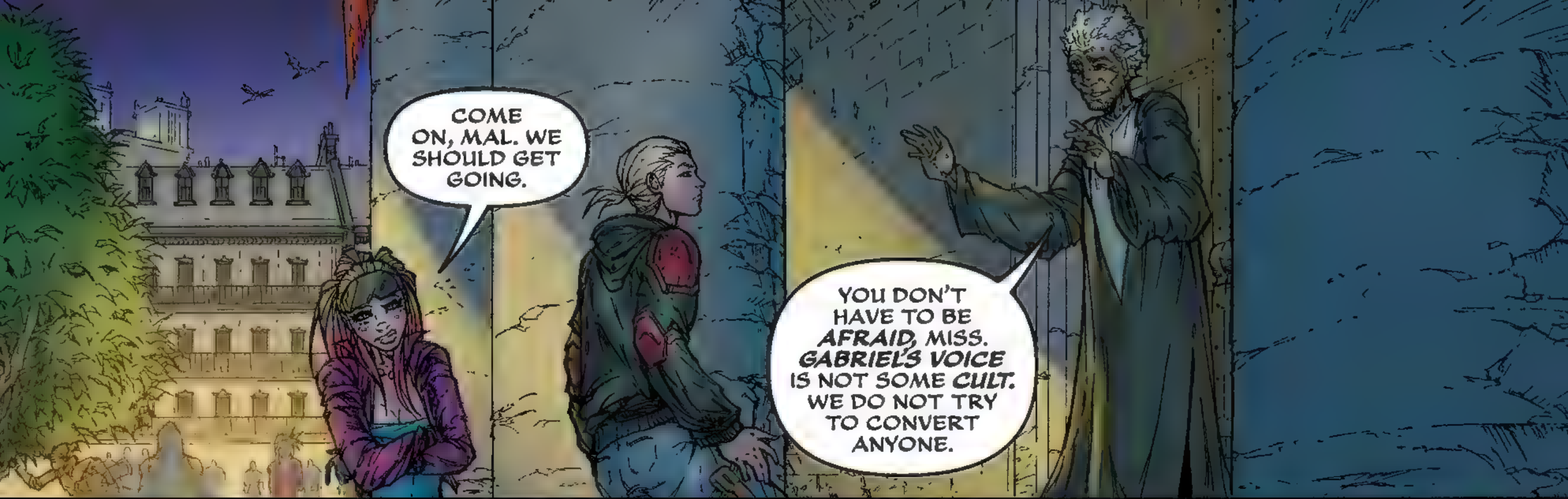
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO SUGGEST
YOU ARE LIKE THAT. I WAS
ONLY TRYING TO SHARE
WHAT I KNOW.
TO HELP.

C'EST
LA VIE. IT'S
COOL.



I GUESS
IF THEY HAVE TO
LOOK LIKE THIS-- AT
LEAST THEY ARE
PRACTICAL.

FANCY A
NIGHT FLIGHT,
GRACE?





YOU
ALL LIVE
HERE?

WE PROVIDE WHAT
WE CAN FOR THOSE IN
NEED. MORE THAN ANYTHING,
PEOPLE SEEM TO WANT TO STICK
AROUND. THEY FIND THE CONNECTION
TO THE MAGIC **STRONGEST** WHEN
SURROUNDING THEMSELVES WITH
OTHERS WHO BELIEVE AS
THEY DO.

SO, YOU
CONVINCE
THEM TO STAY?
THOUGHT YOU
SAID IT **WASN'T**
A CULT.

FOR SOME,
THE MAGIC IS ALL
THEY HAVE IN THIS
WORLD. IT GIVES
THEM HOPE.

AND
PEACE.

IT GIVES
THEM **LIFE.**

PEOPLE
ARE FREE TO GO,
SONIA. SOME STAY
BECAUSE THEY
WANT TO.

OTHERS STAY
BECAUSE THEY
HAVE **NOWHERE**
ELSE TO GO.



HELLO.

WELCOME.
TELL ME, HAVE
YOU **SEEN** THE
LIGHT?

I... UM...
I'M NOT
SURE. HAVE
YOU?

SEE? NO.

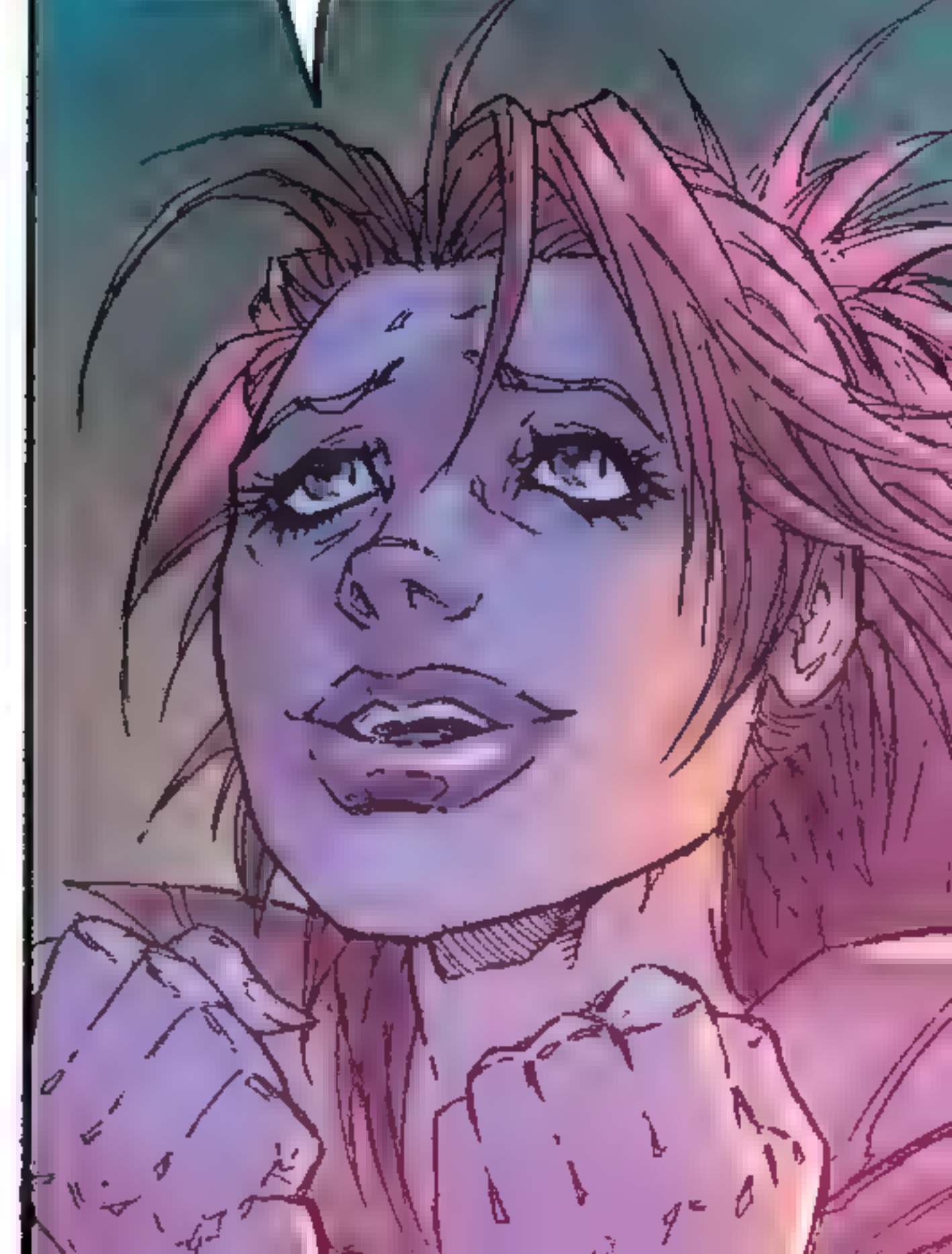
BUT WE
FEEL IT. WE KNOW IT'S
THERE. WAITING.

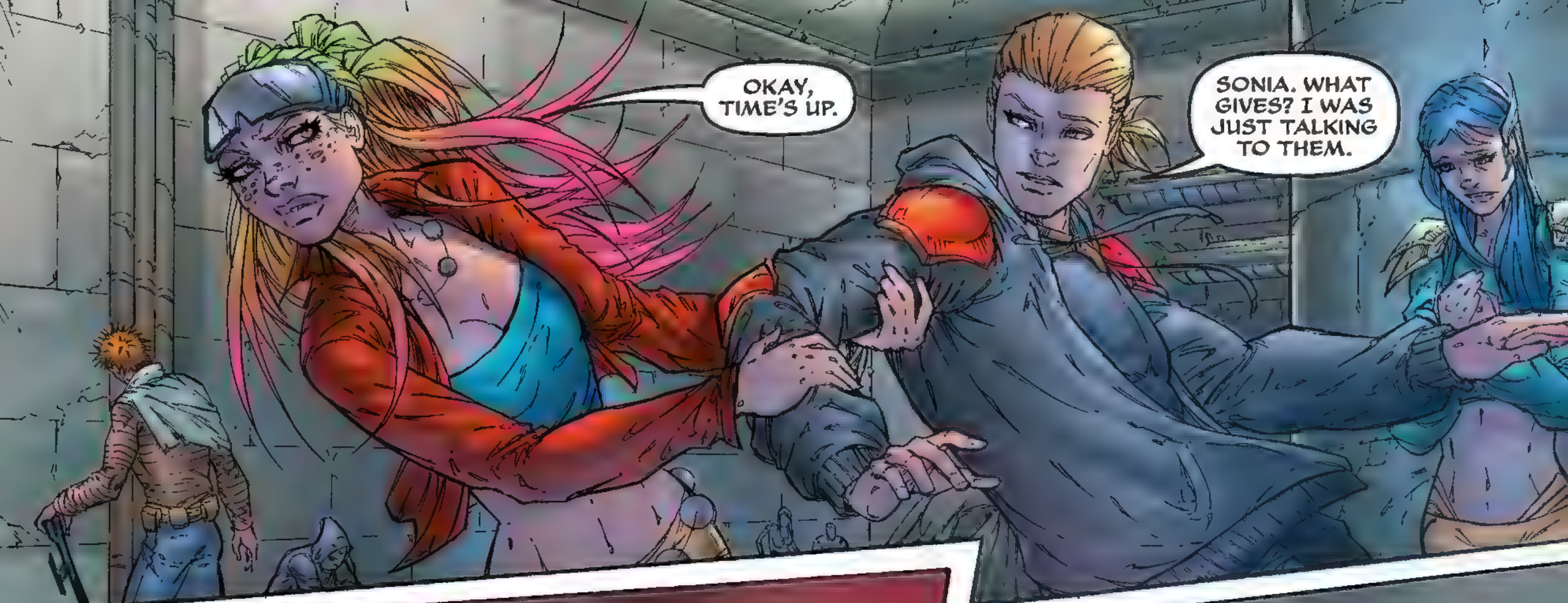
WAITING
FOR WHAT?

FOR US
TO BE READY
TO SEE.

AND ONCE YOU
SEE-- WHAT DO
YOU THINK WILL
HAPPEN?

EVERYTHING
WILL CHANGE.





OKAY,
TIME'S UP.

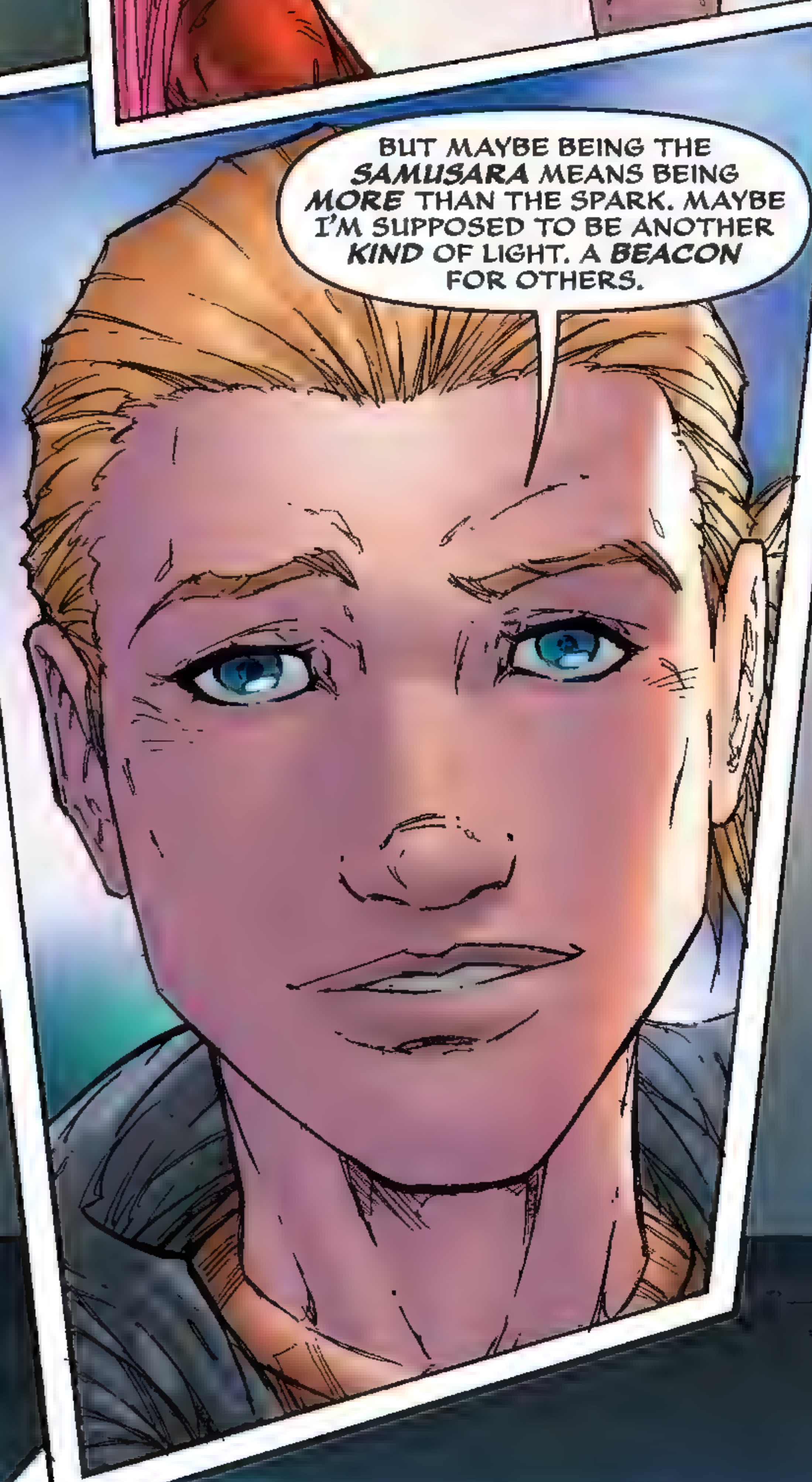
SONIA. WHAT
GIVES? I WAS
JUST TALKING
TO THEM.



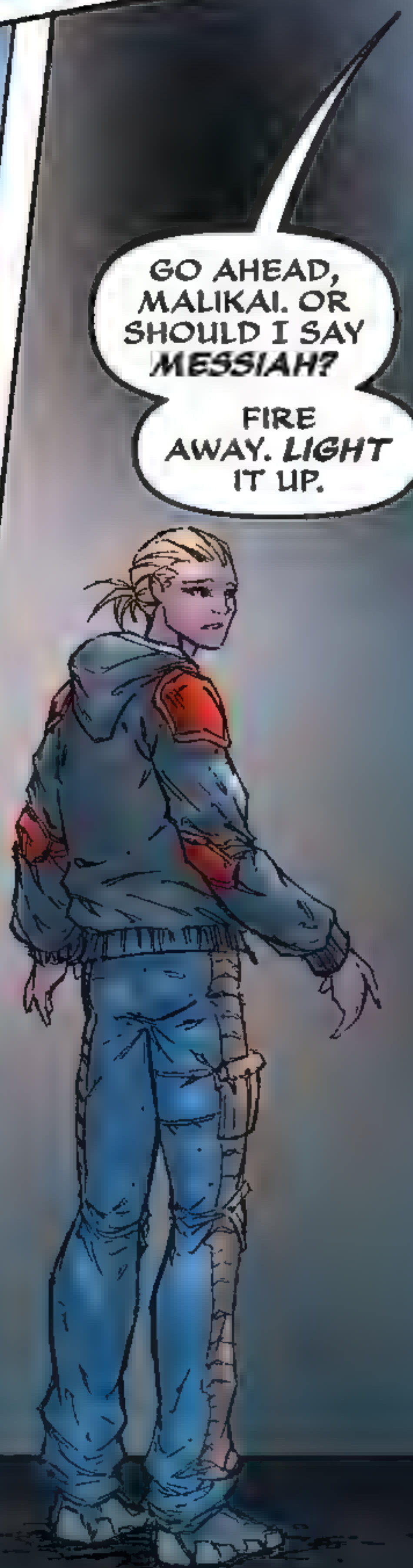
THAT'S NOT
ALL AND YOU
KNOW IT.

LOOK-- YOU DID
YOUR *DUTY*. YOU
WERE THE *SPARK*
THAT BROUGHT THE
MAGIC BACK-- BUT
YOU *AREN'T* THE
MAGIC, MAL.

I *NEVER*
SAID I WAS.



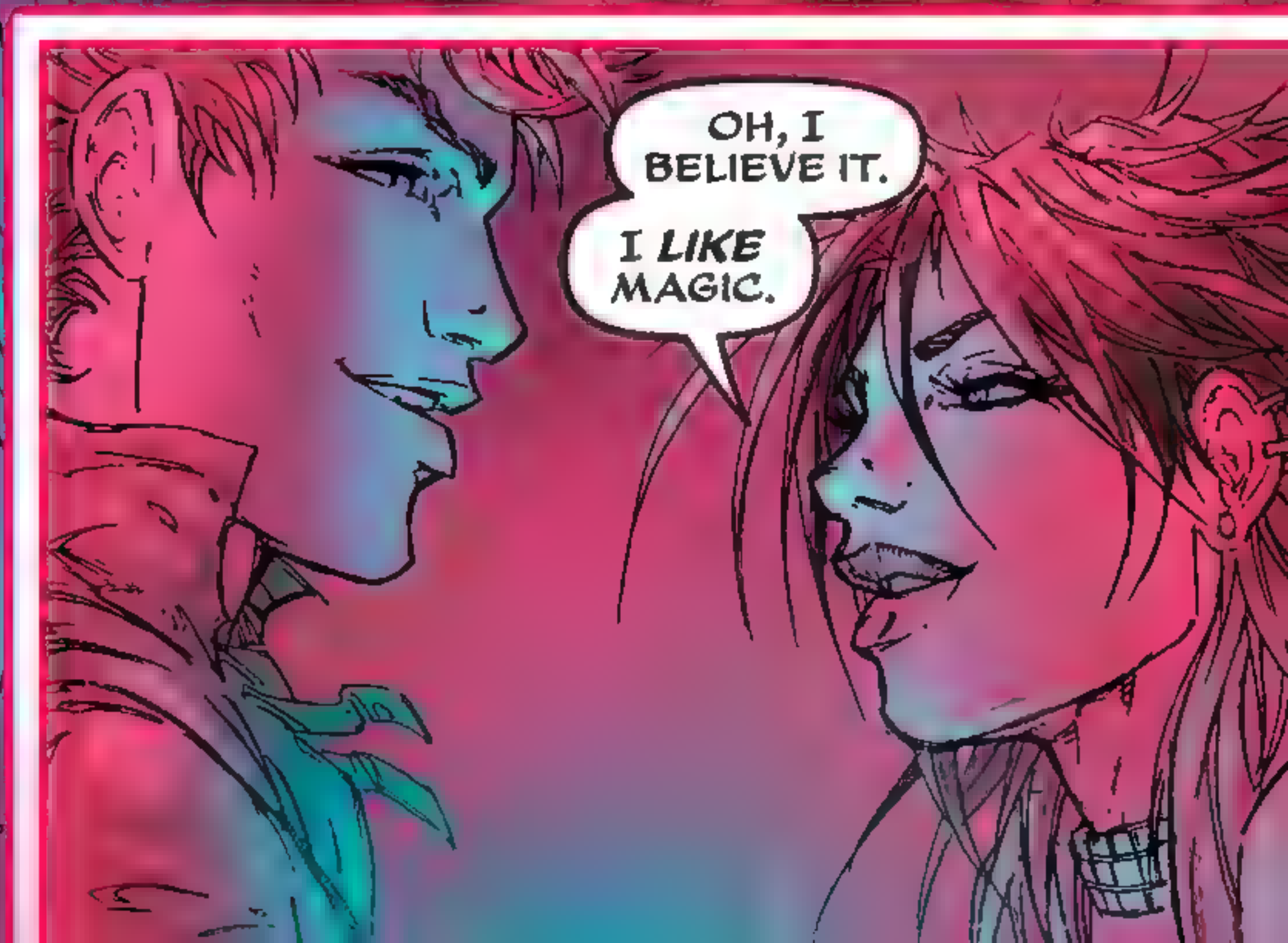
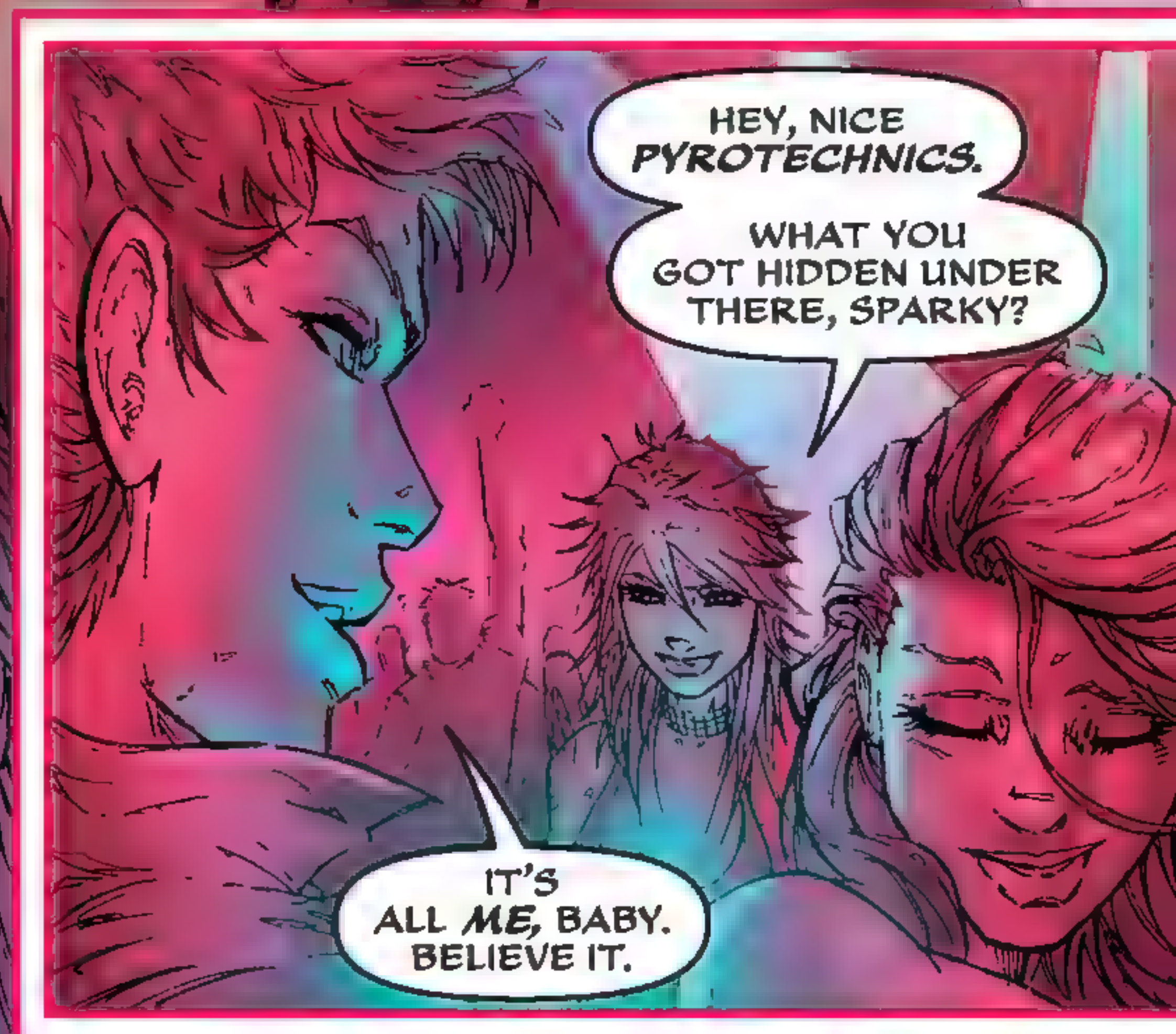
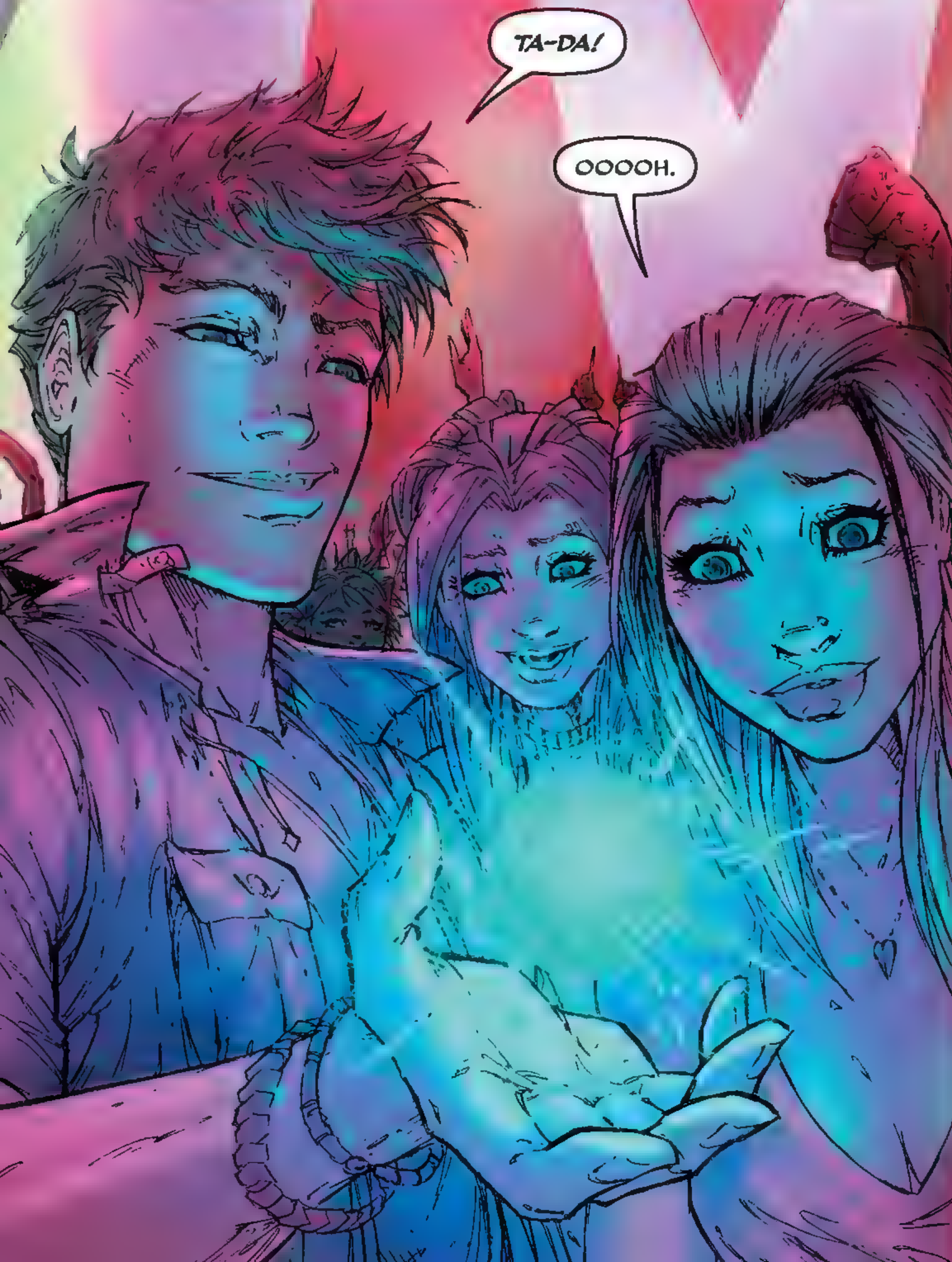
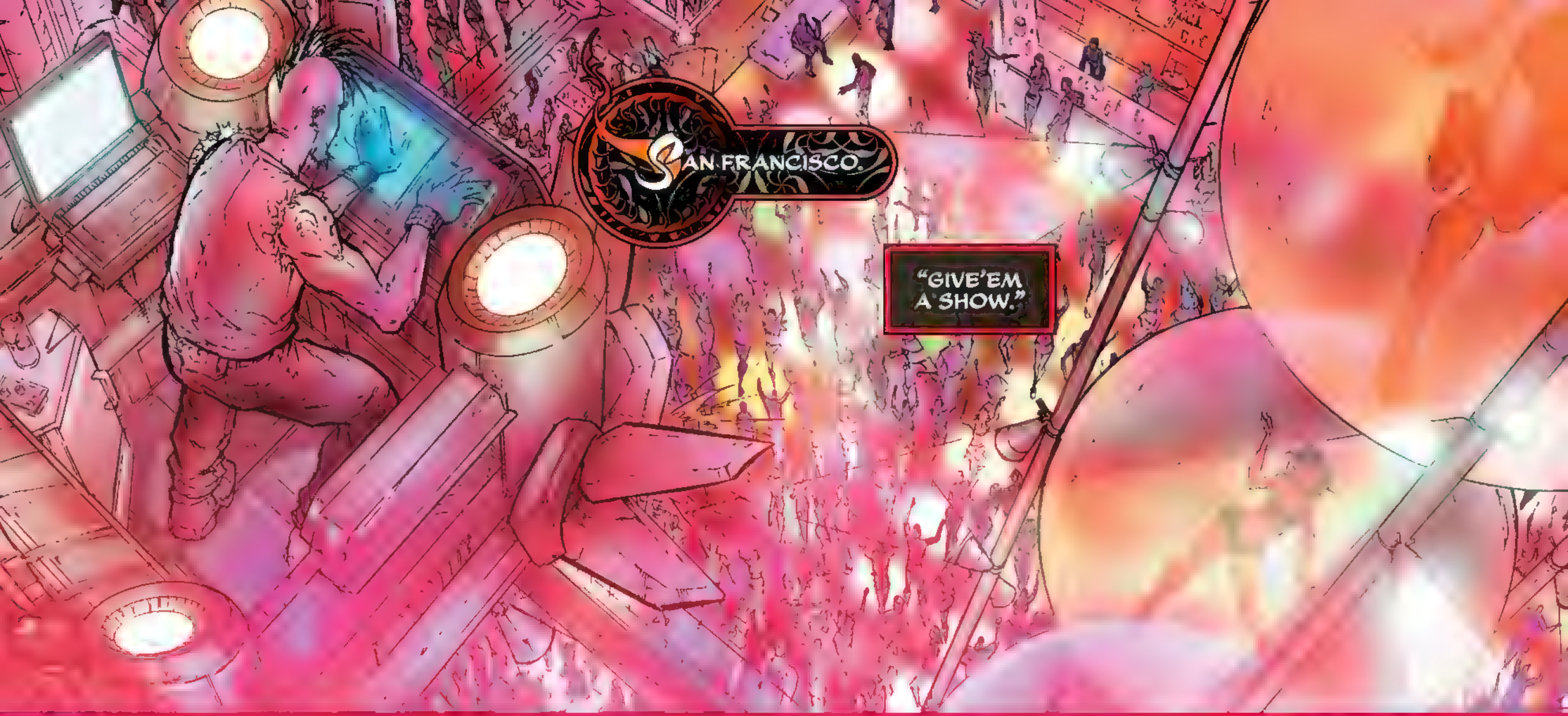
BUT MAYBE BEING THE
SAMUSARA MEANS BEING
MORE THAN THE *SPARK*. MAYBE
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ANOTHER
KIND OF LIGHT. A *BEACON*
FOR OTHERS.



GO AHEAD,
MALIKAI. OR
SHOULD I SAY
MESSIAH?

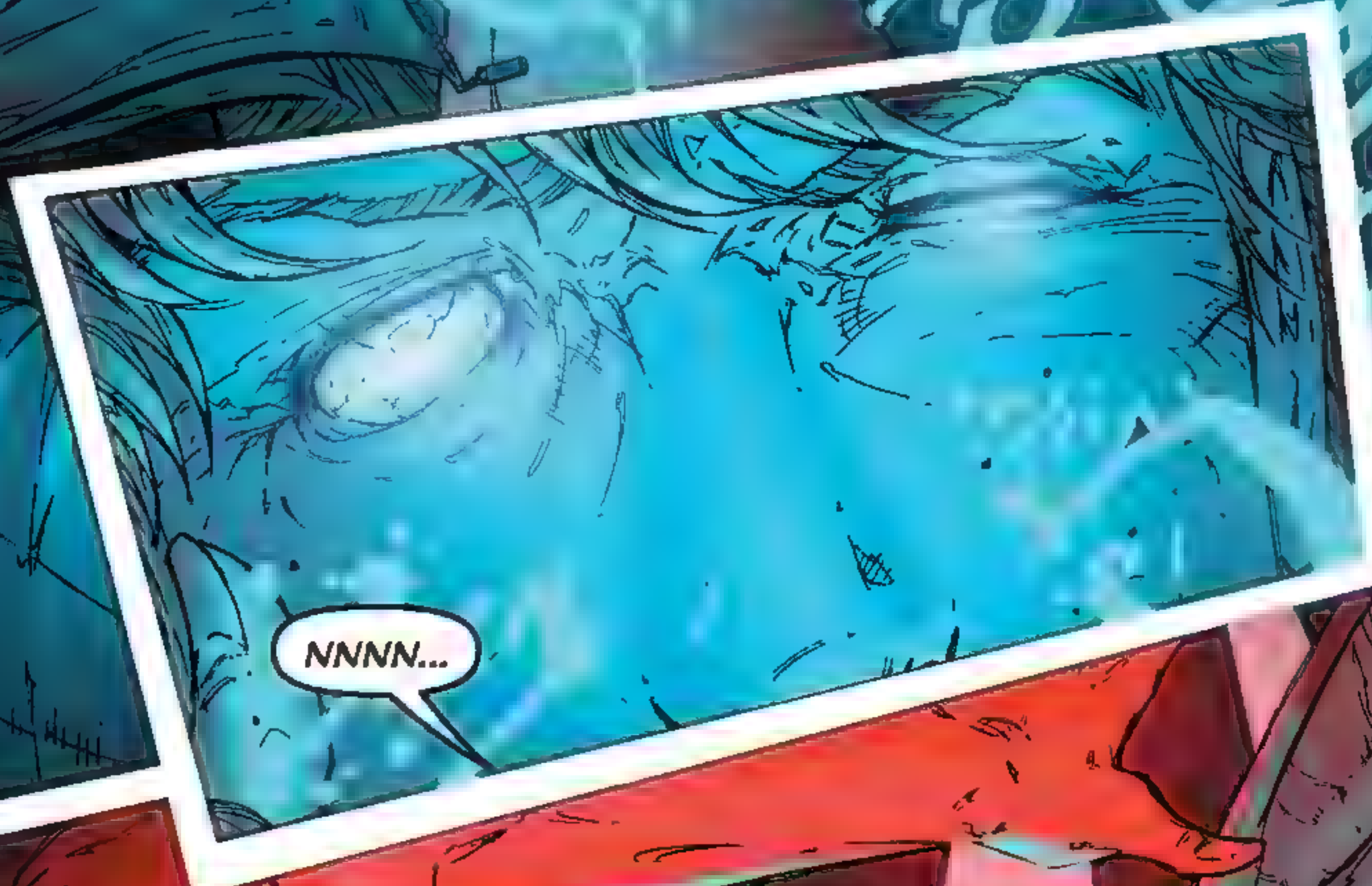
FIRE
AWAY. *LIGHT*
IT UP.







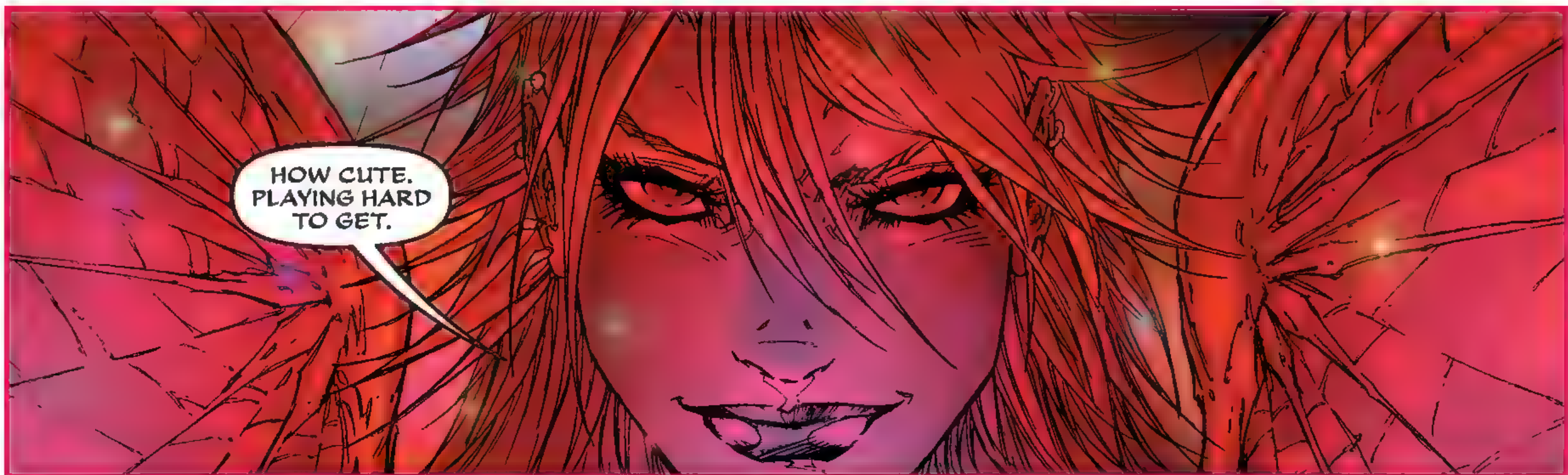
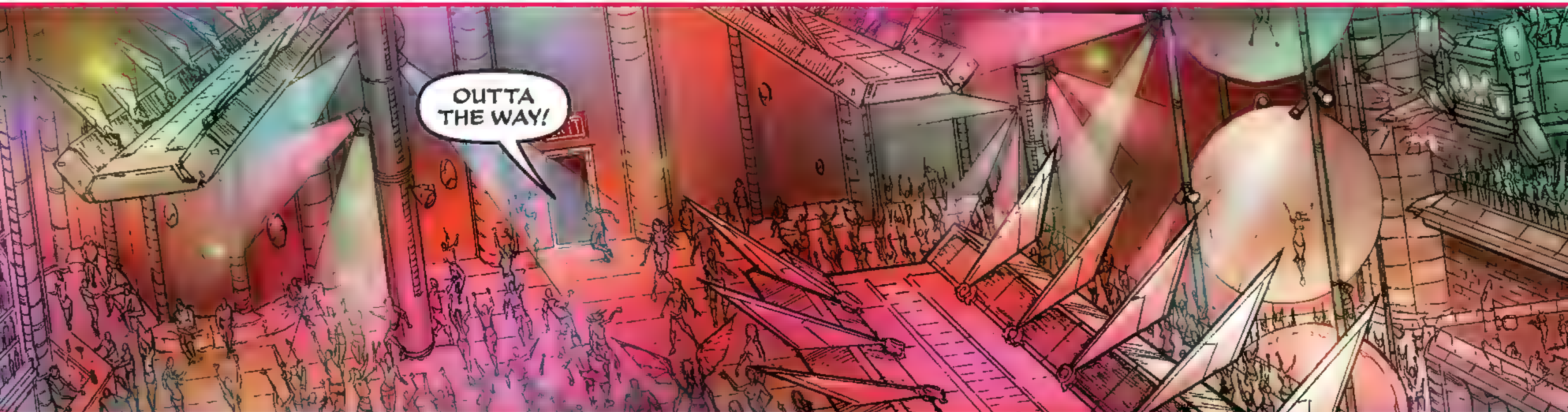
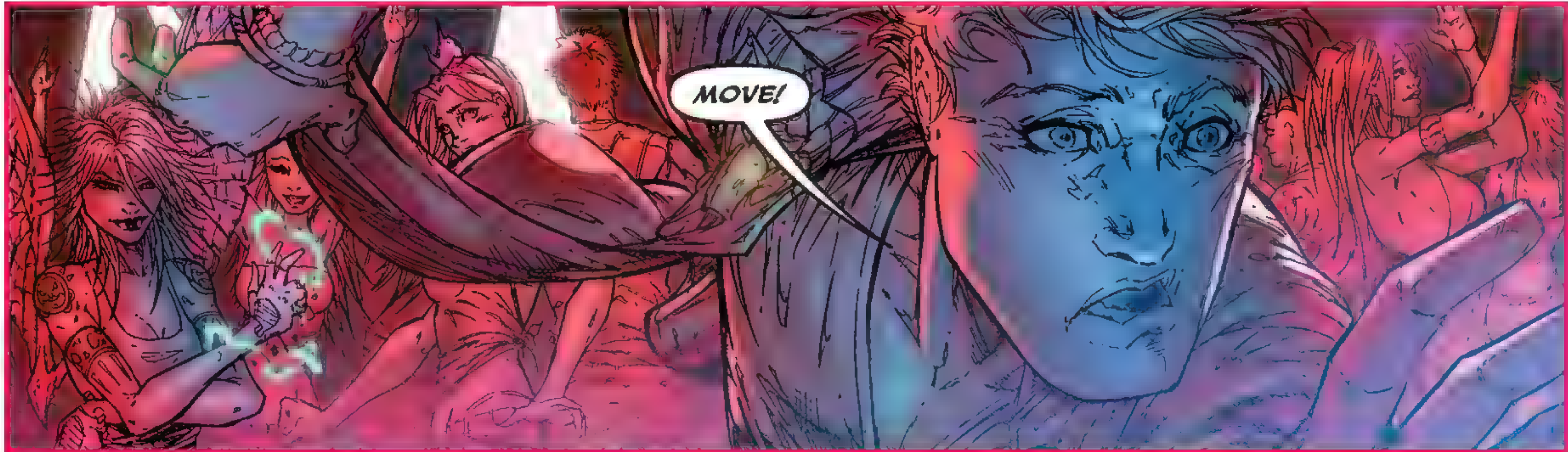
CAN'T GET
ENOUGH.



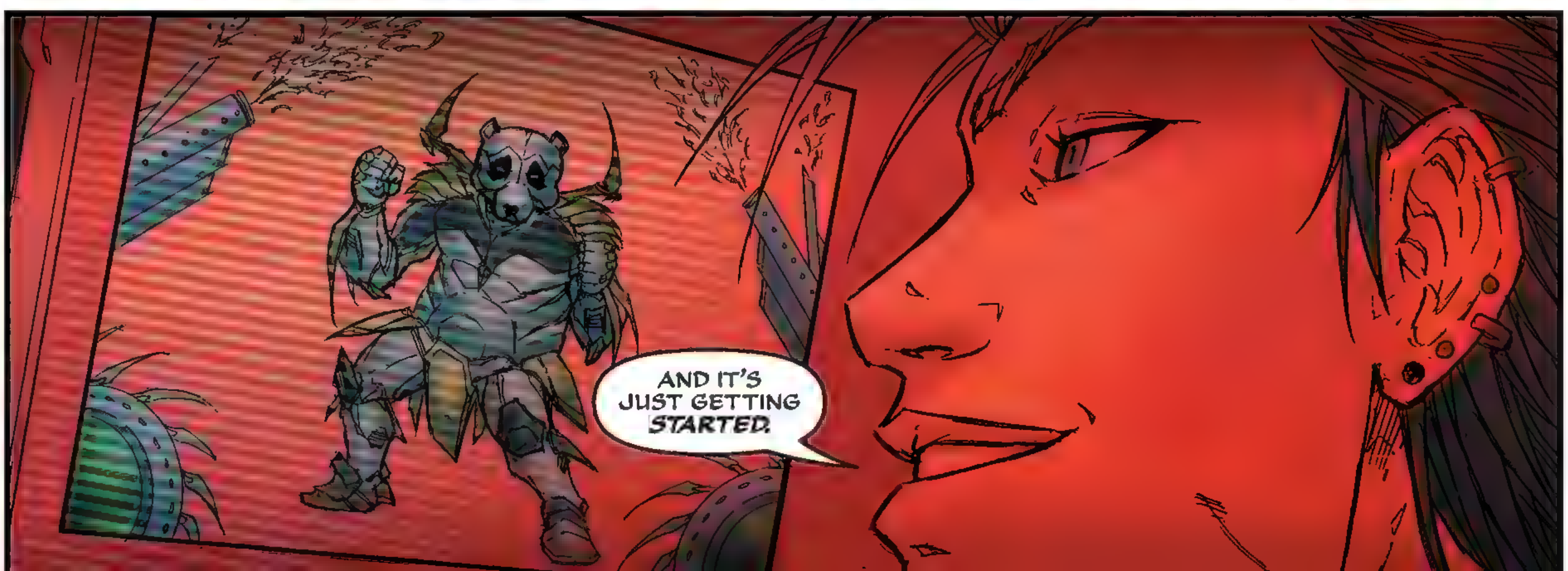
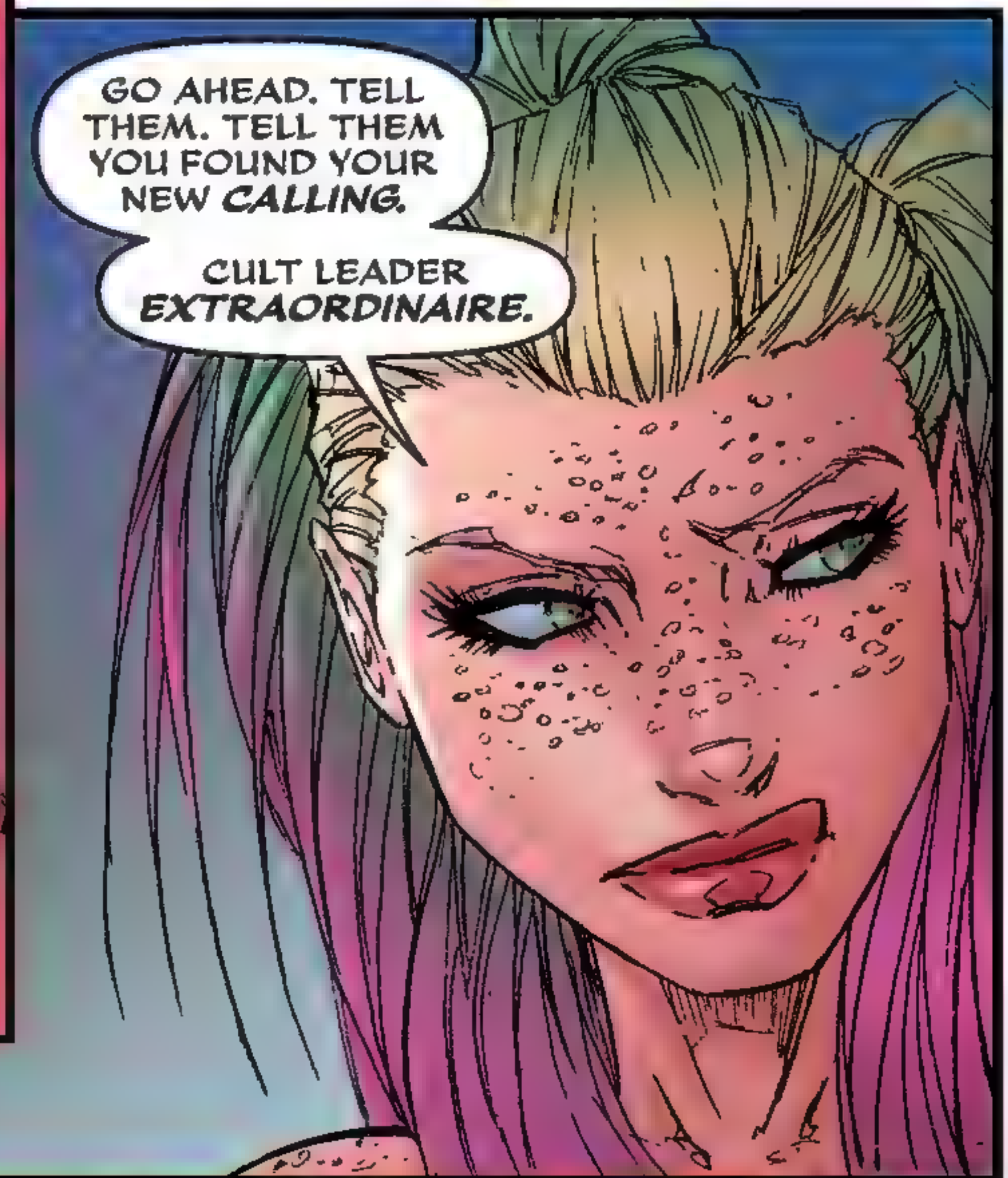
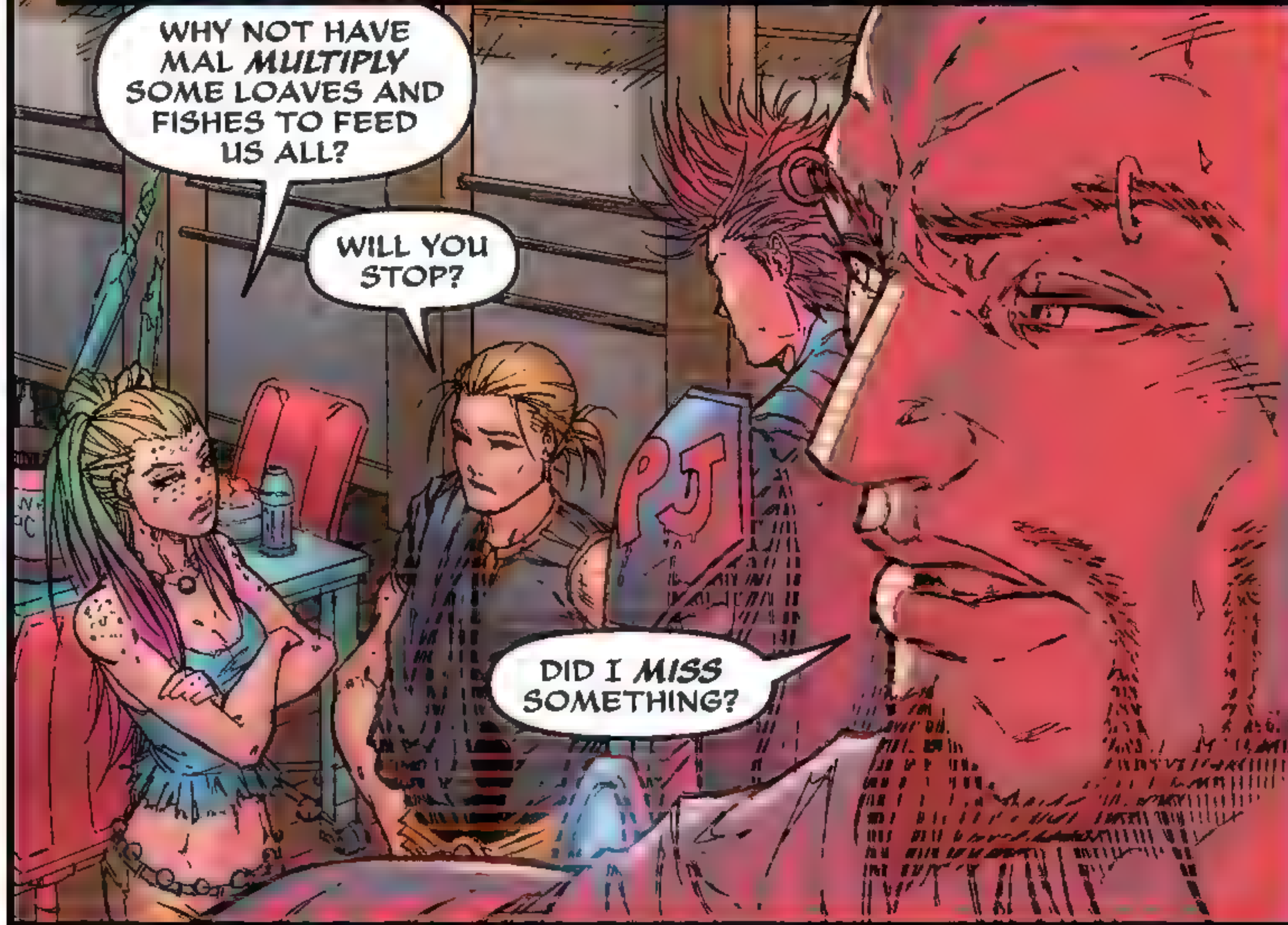
NNNN...



GET
WAY FROM
ME!

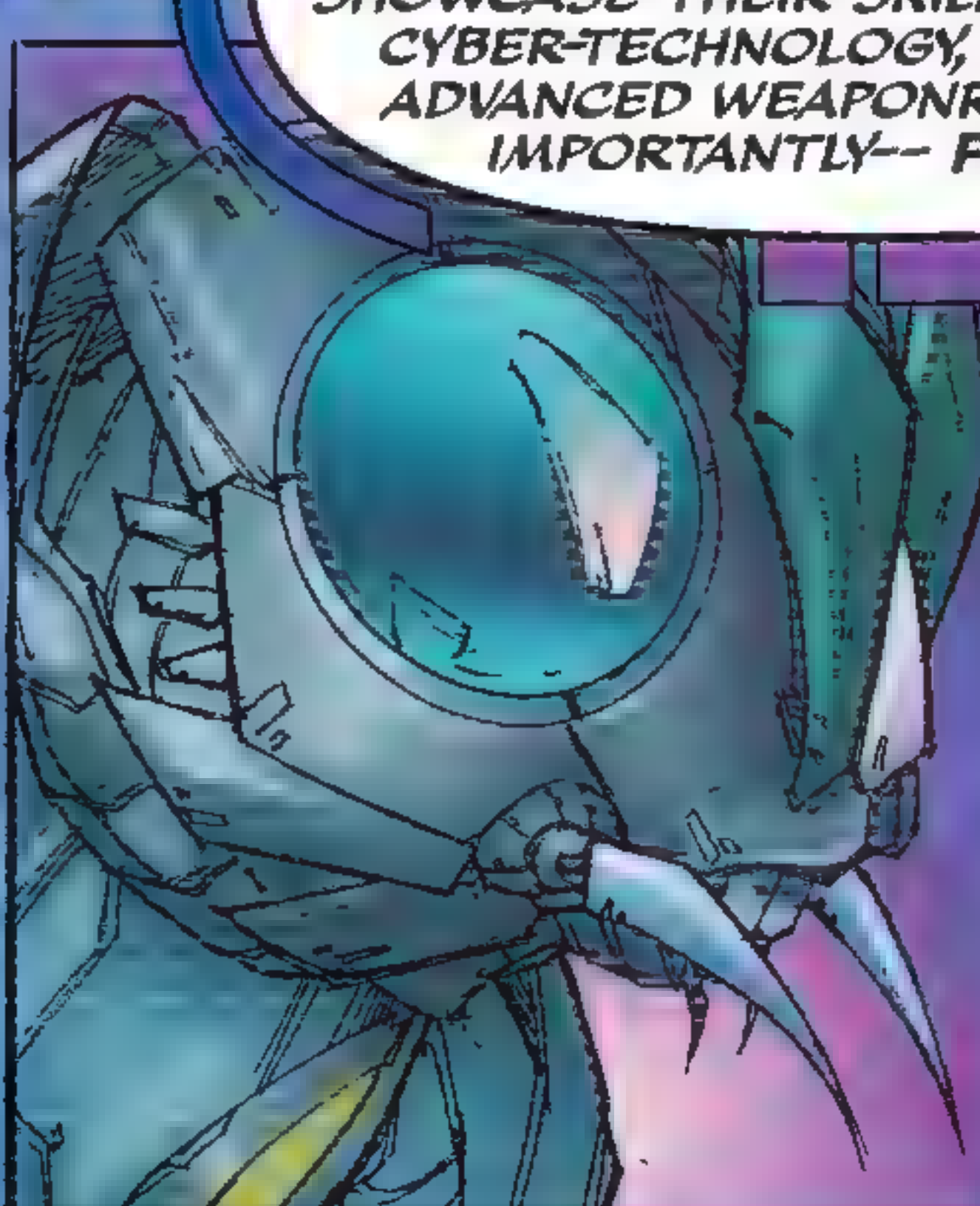




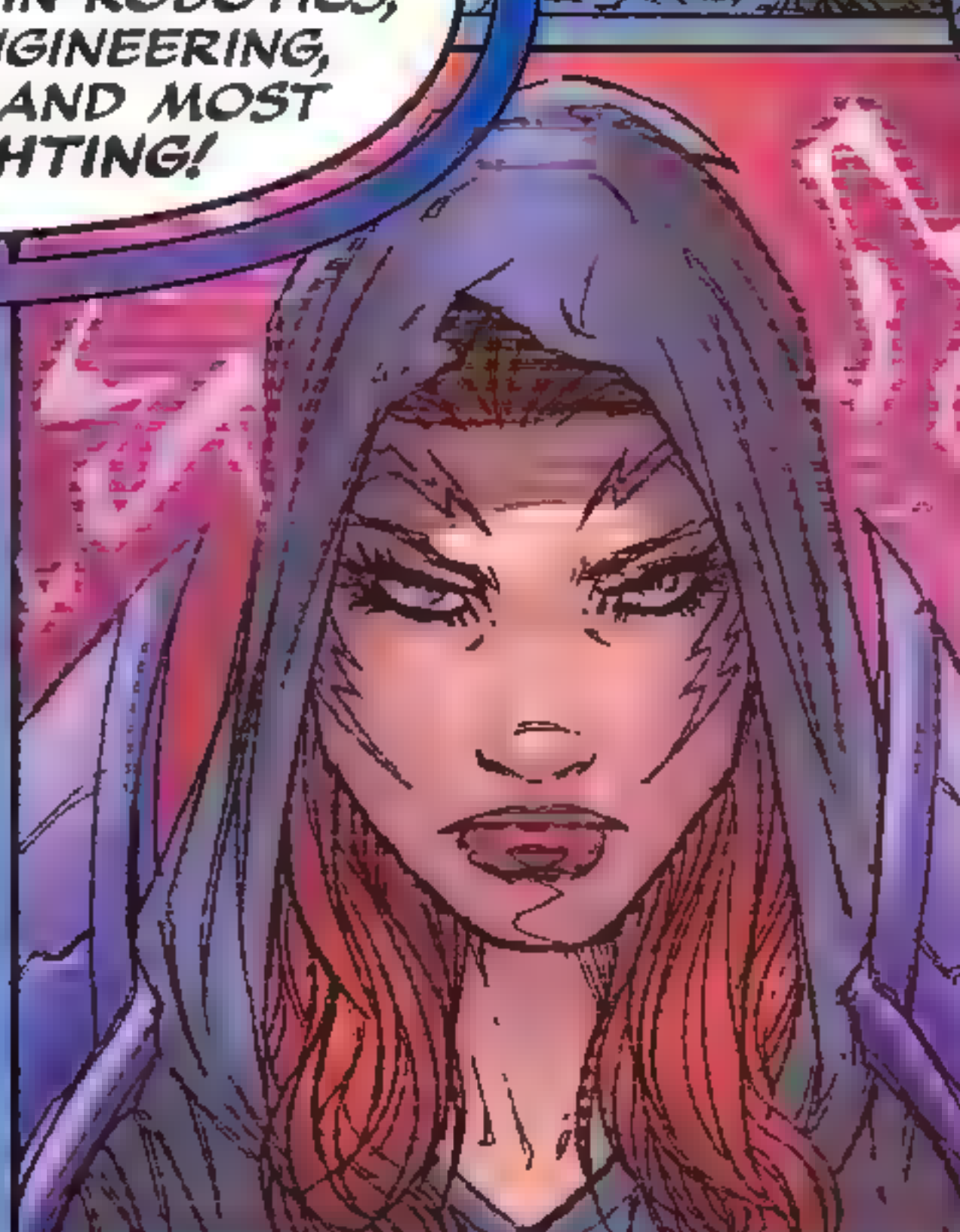




GREETING FANS AND FIGHTERS! THIS IS LIN PADOR. HERE TO TELL YOU THAT THE WAIT IS OVER! IT'S PANDEMONIUM VII!



THIS YEAR, ALL THE BEST CONTESTANTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE HAVE GATHERED RIGHT HERE IN PARIS TO SHOWCASE THEIR SKILLS IN ROBOTICS, CYBER-TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ADVANCED WEAPONRY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY-- FIGHTING!



THE BRACKETS ARE BEING RANDOMLY GENERATED AS WE SPEAK-- AND WE'LL SOON KNOW THE MATCH-UPS FOR OUR FIRST ROUND



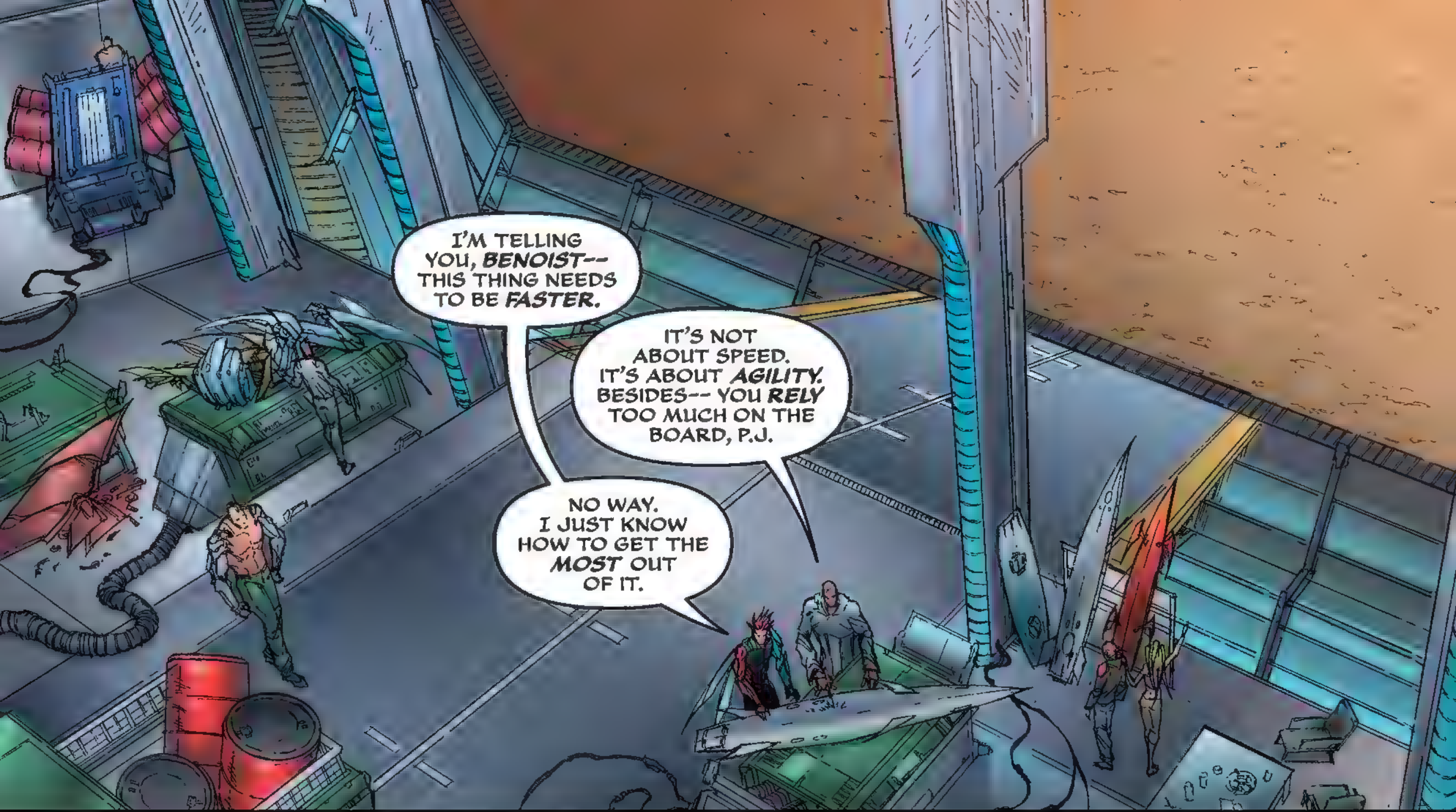
AND REMEMBER, PART OF WHAT MAKES A CHAMPION GREAT IN THIS ARENA IS THE ART OF ADAPTABILITY. THEREFORE, IT'S A DOUBLE-ELIMINATION CONTEST.



LOSE ONCE, AND YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO RETOOL AND REDEEM YOURSELF. LOSE TWICE-- AND THAT'S THE END OF THE ROAD.



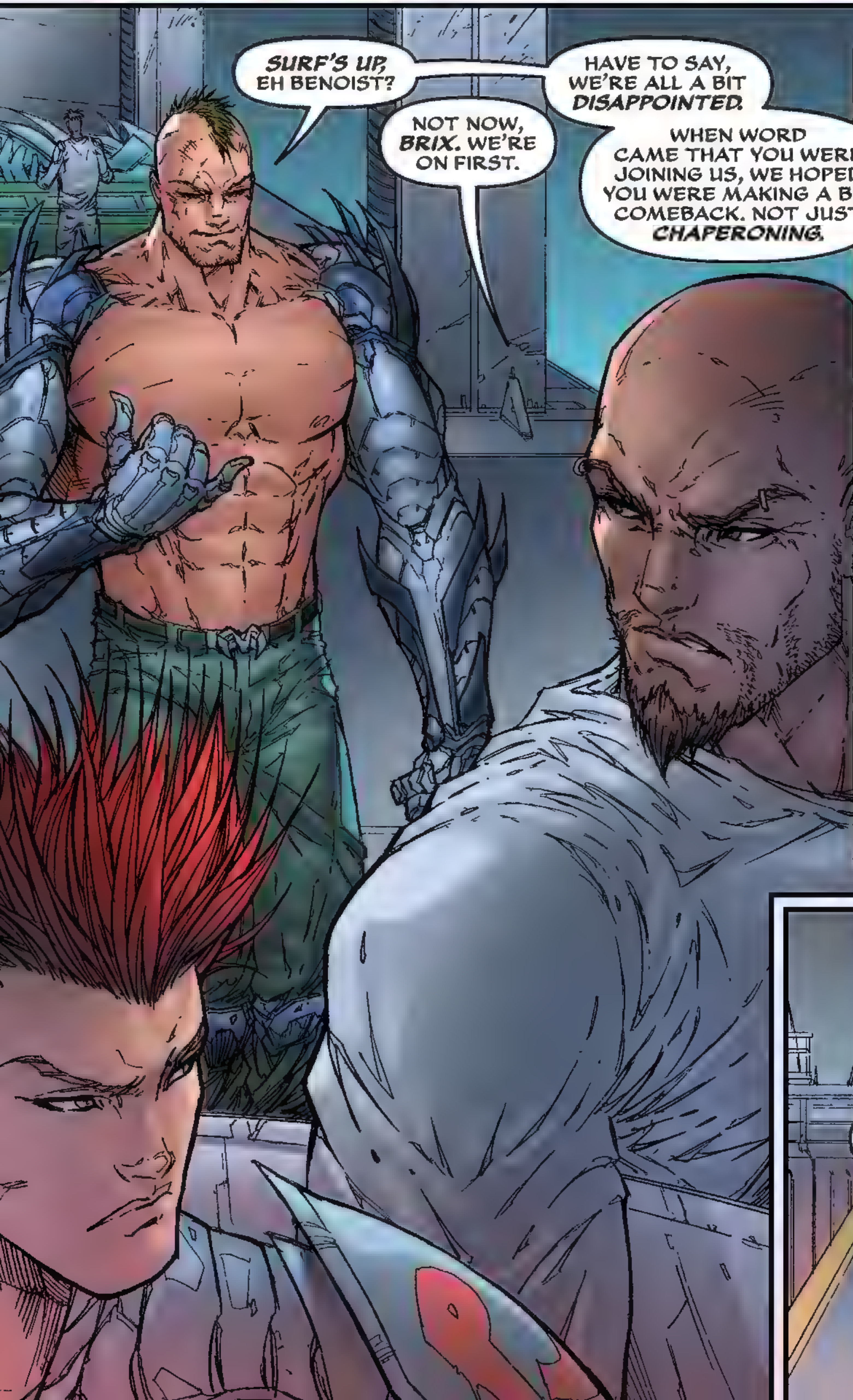
SO, LET'S GET TO IT!



I'M TELLING
YOU, **BENOIST**--
THIS THING NEEDS
TO BE **FASTER**.

IT'S NOT
ABOUT SPEED.
IT'S ABOUT **AGILITY**.
BESIDES-- YOU **RELY**
TOO MUCH ON THE
BOARD, P.J.

NO WAY.
I JUST KNOW
HOW TO GET THE
MOST OUT
OF IT.

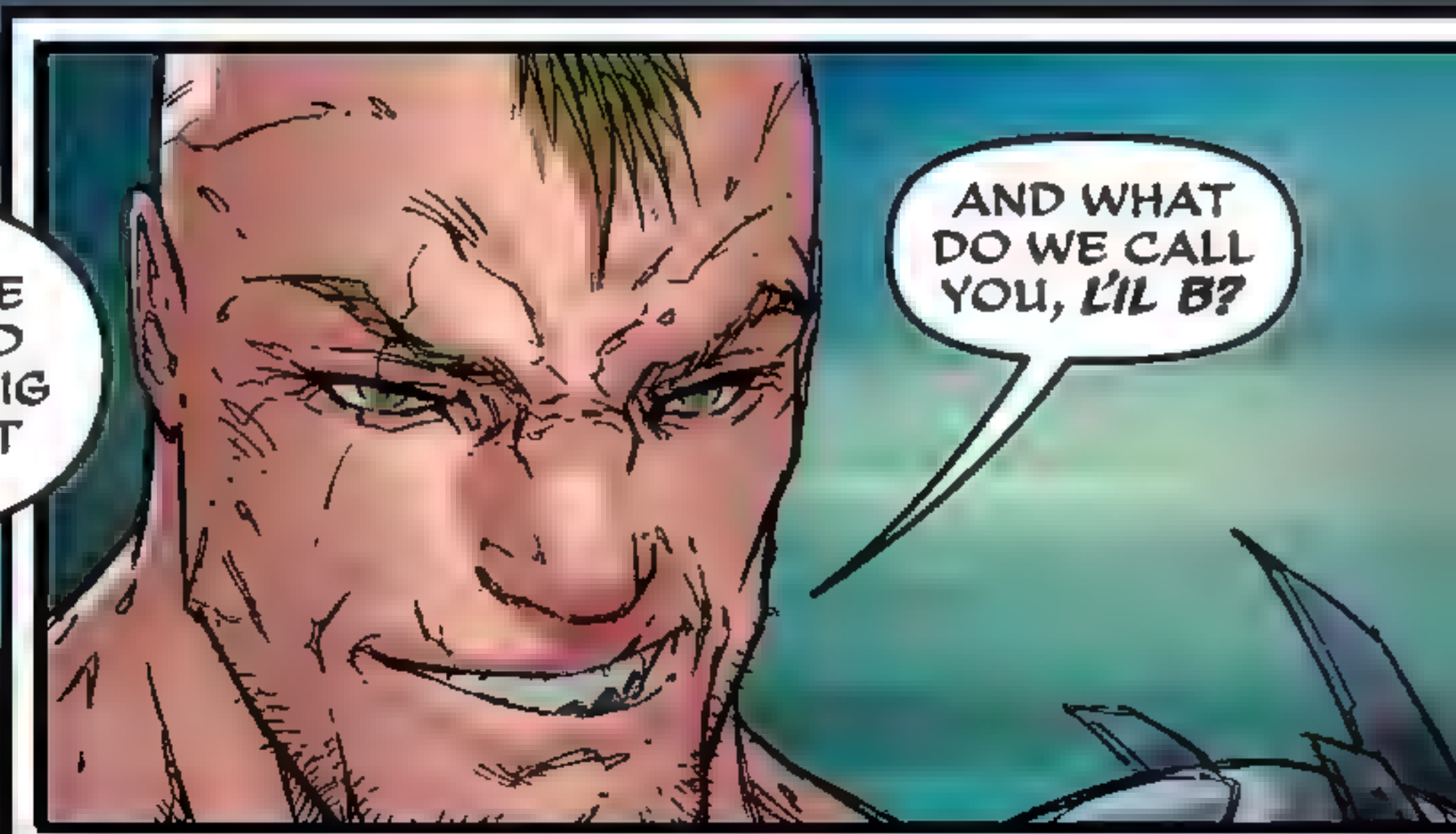


SURF'S UP,
EH **BENOIST**?

NOT NOW,
BRIX. WE'RE
ON FIRST.

HAVE TO SAY,
WE'RE ALL A BIT
DISAPPOINTED.

WHEN WORD
CAME THAT YOU WERE
JOINING US, WE HOPED
YOU WERE MAKING A BIG
COMEBACK. NOT JUST
CHAPERONING.



AND WHAT
DO WE CALL
YOU, **L'IL B**?

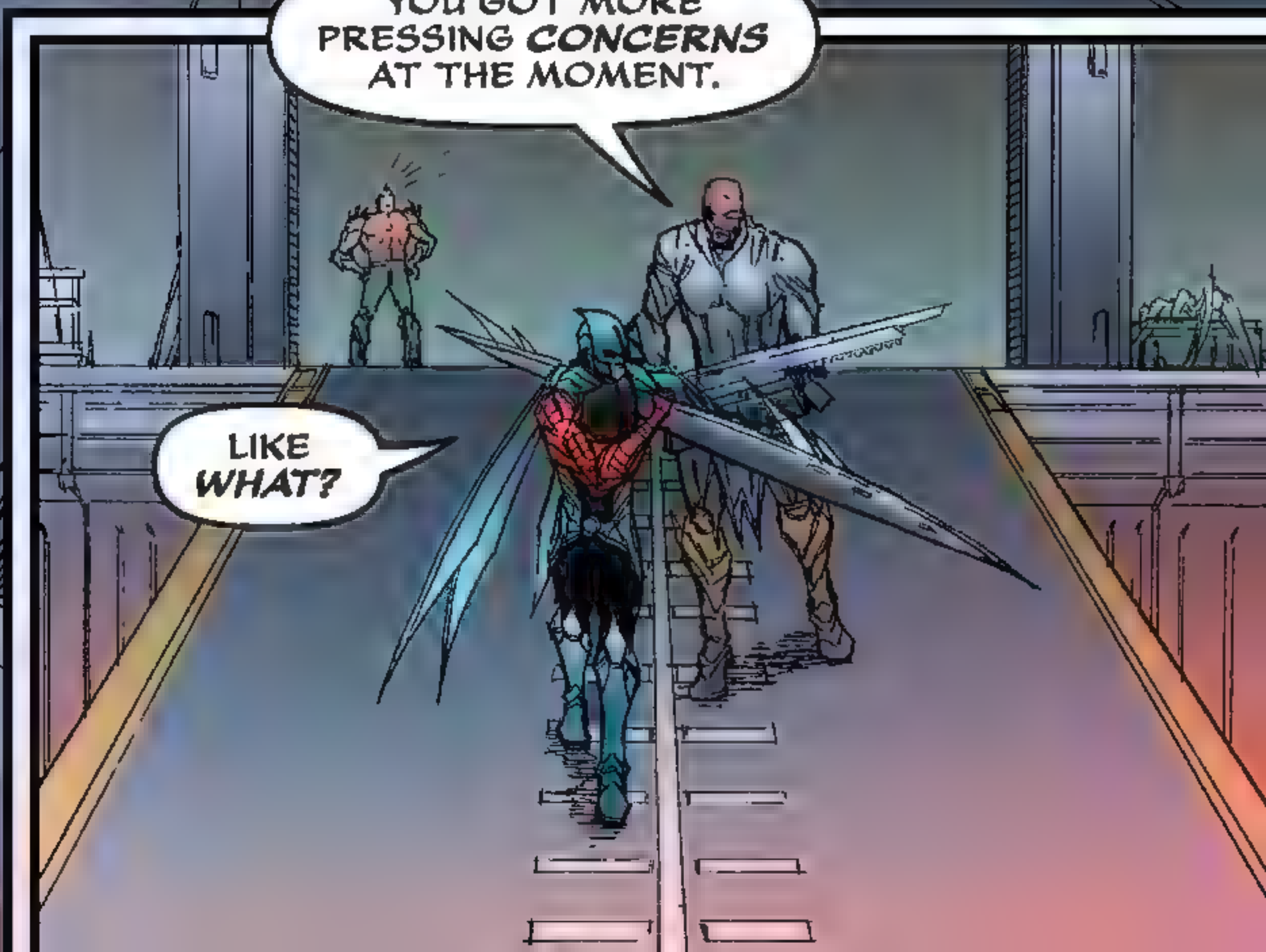


SURE.
IF YOU WANT
YOUR NEXT
CYBER UPGRADE
TO BE METAL
TEETH.

HA! **L'IL B**
INDEED.

ALRIGHT,
P.J. DON'T GIVE HIM
ANY ATTENTION.

YOU GOT MORE
PRESSING **CONCERNS**
AT THE MOMENT.



LIKE
WHAT?



LOOKS
LIKE P.J. DREW
THE SHORT
STRAW.

BEHOLD--
TINDERBOX!

SOMETHING
YOU SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT ME, I'M NOT
INTIMIDATED BY
SIZE.

SKYER

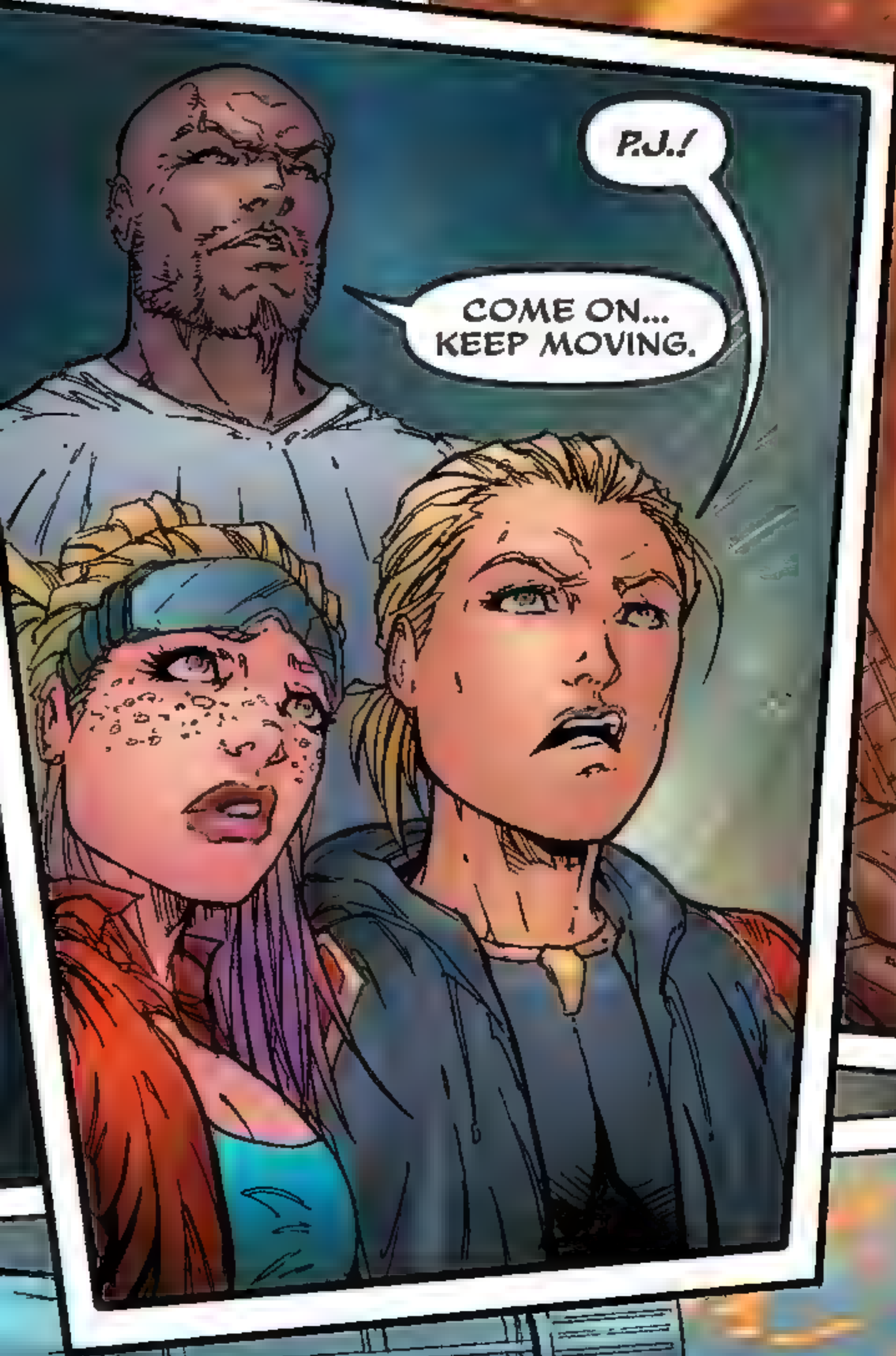




THIS MIGHT
BE OVER BEFORE
IT BEGINS.



AHHH!

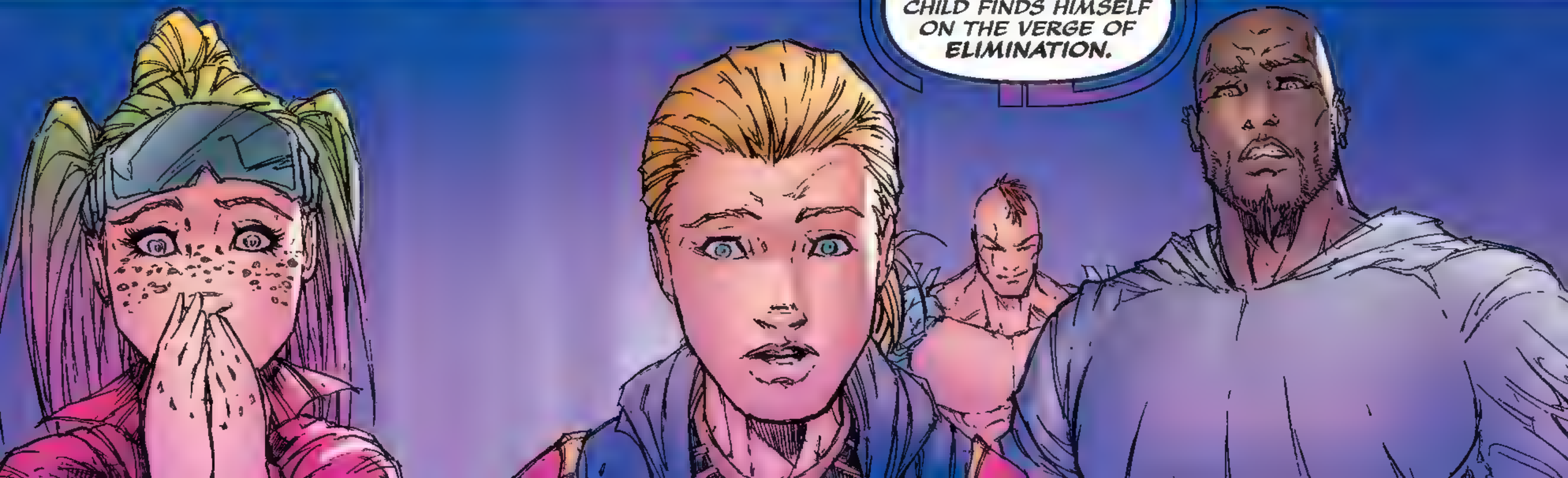
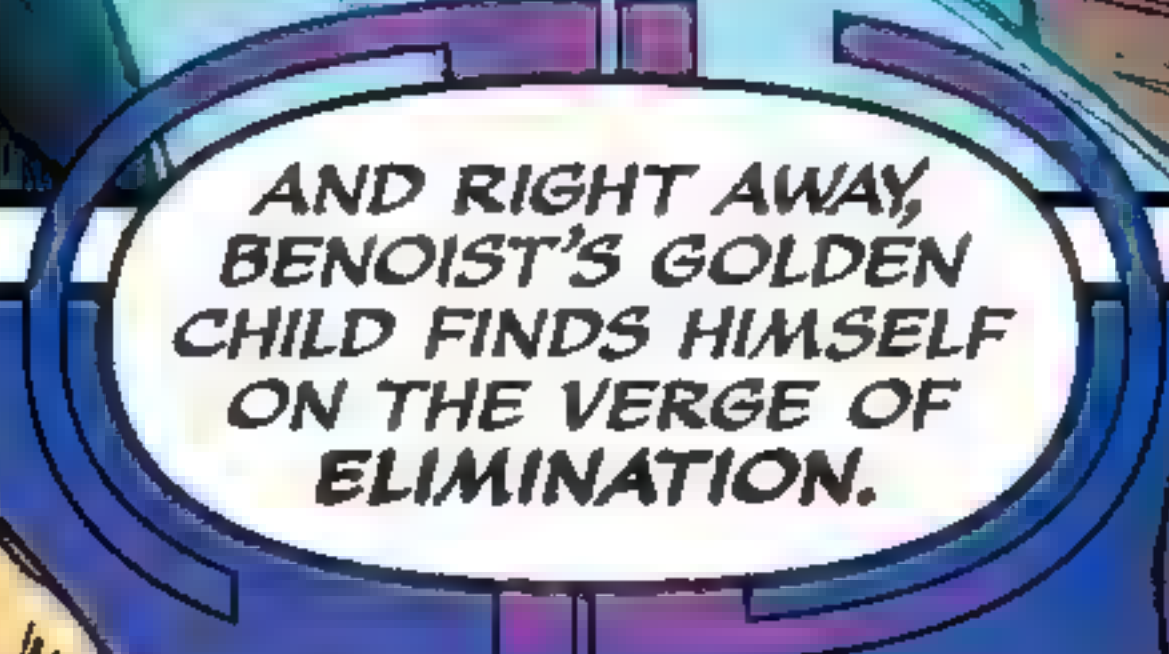
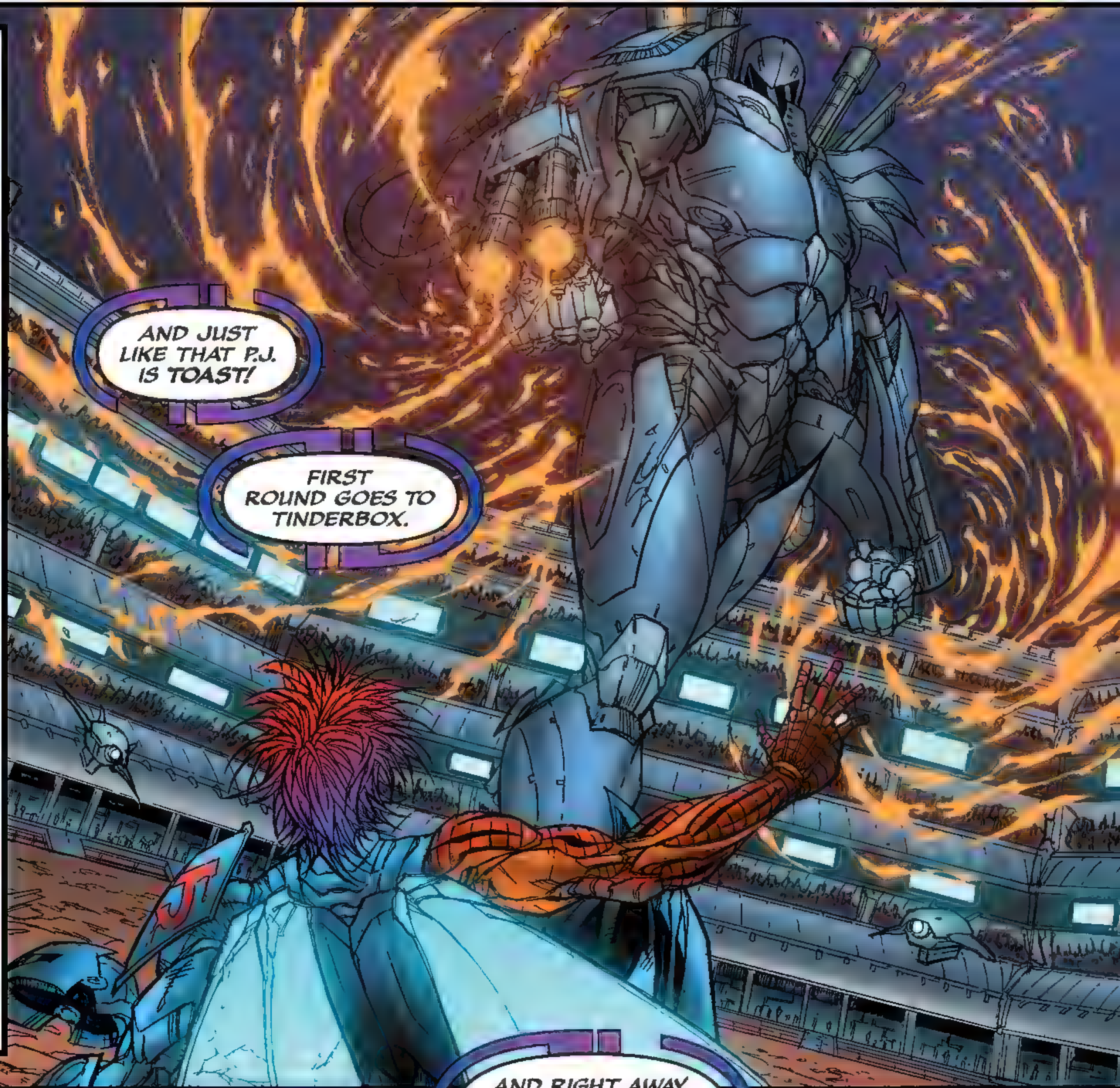


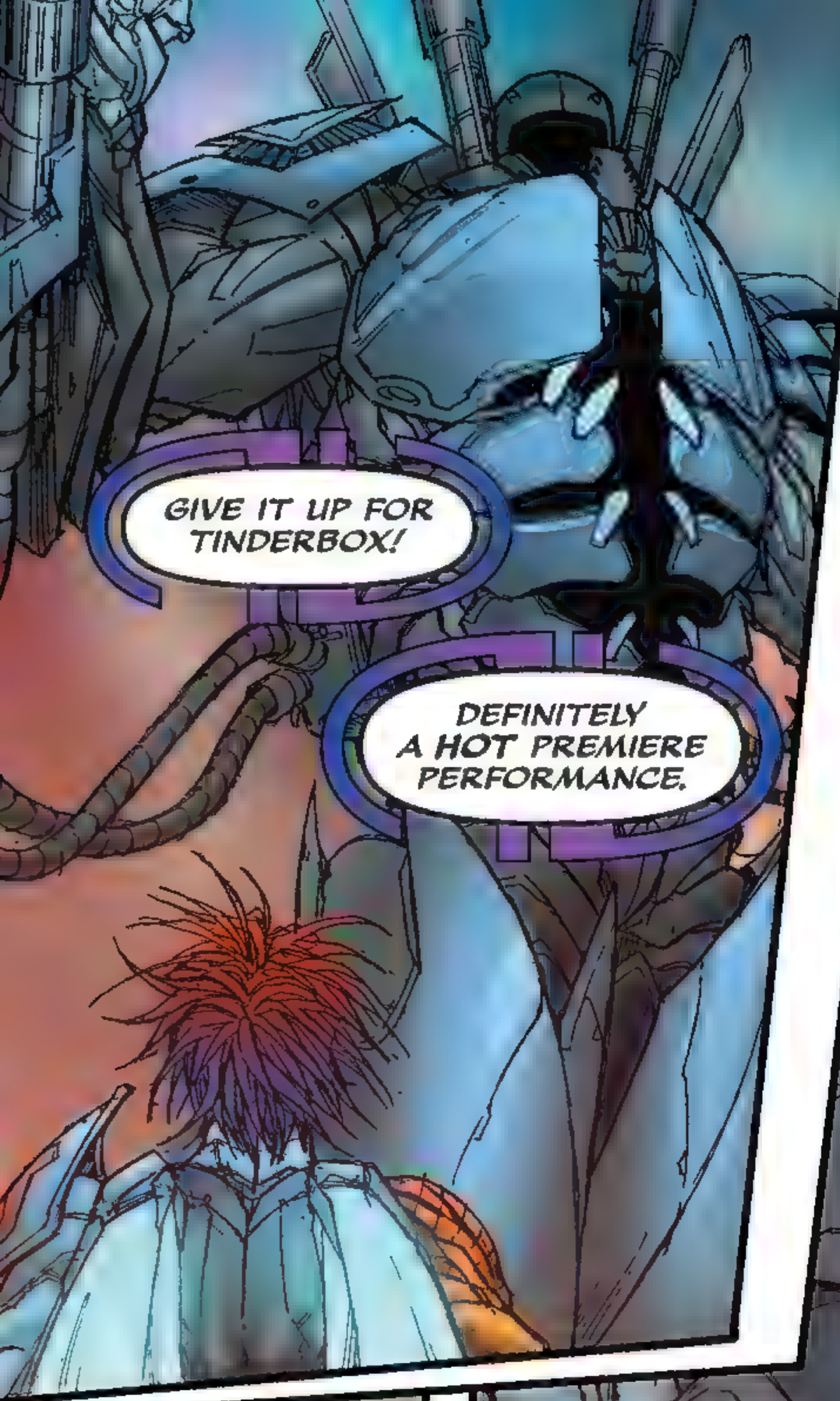
P.J.!

COME ON...
KEEP MOVING.



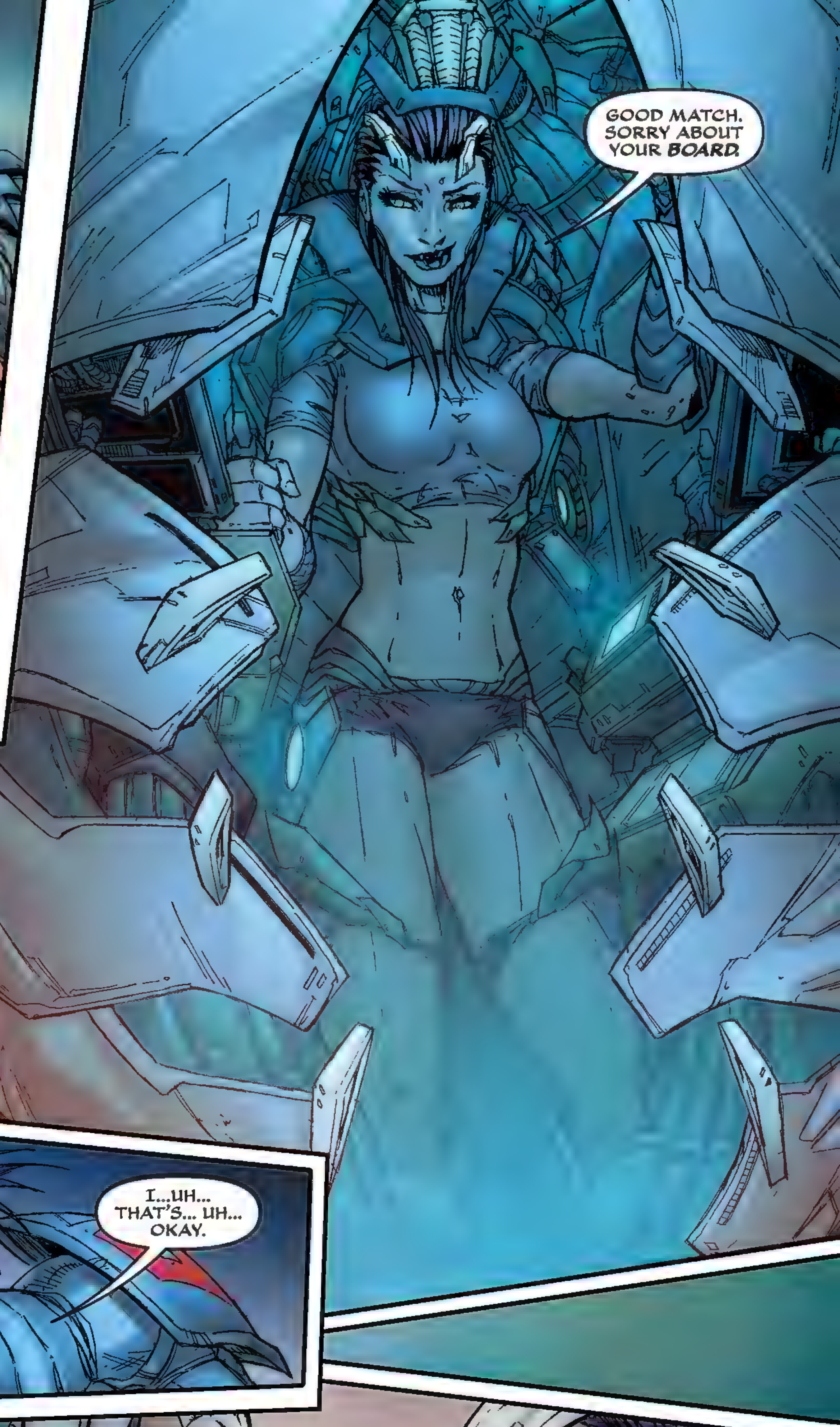
KRRGGGK



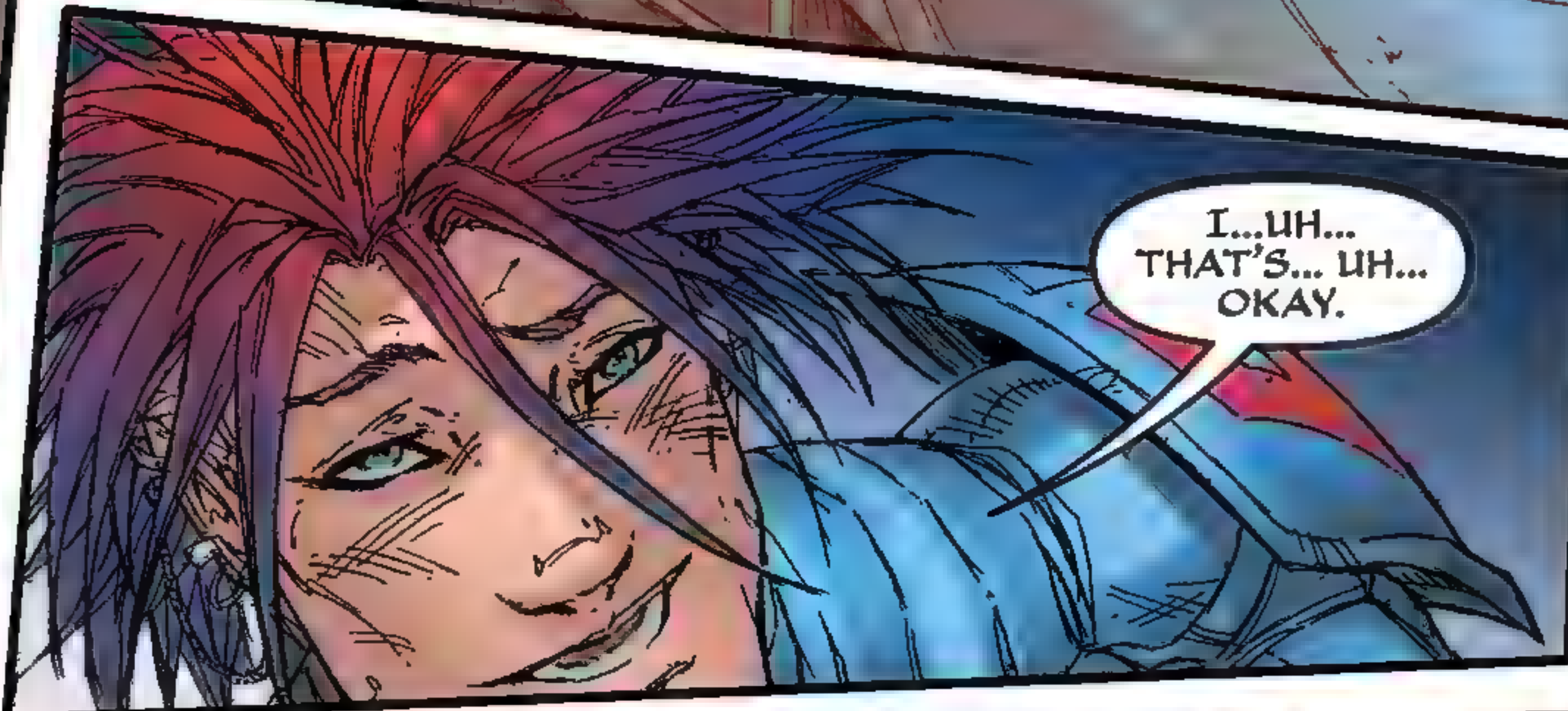


GIVE IT UP FOR
TINDERBOX!

DEFINITELY
A HOT PREMIERE
PERFORMANCE.



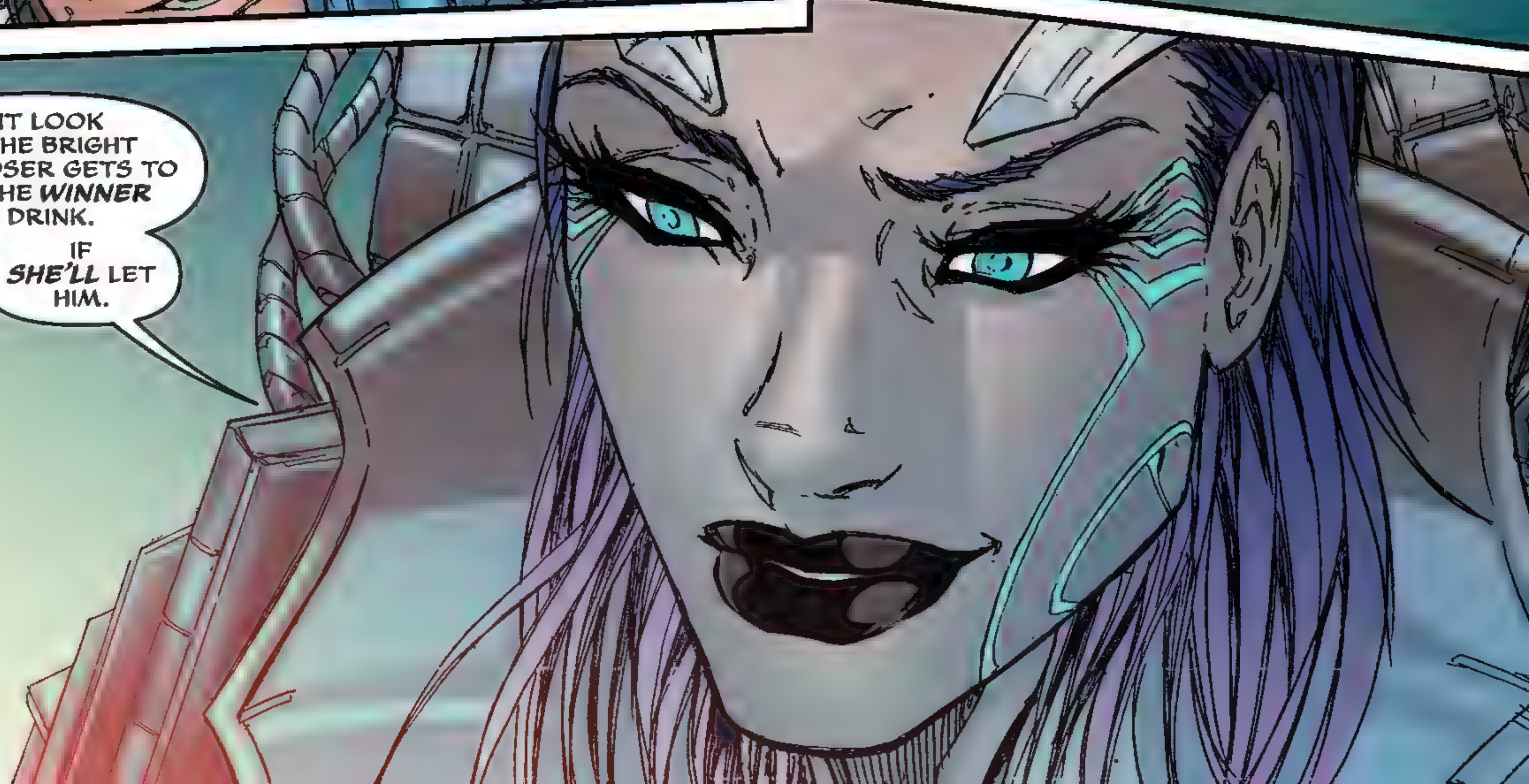
GOOD MATCH.
SORRY ABOUT
YOUR BOARD.



I...UH...
THAT'S... UH...
OKAY.

BUT LOOK
ON THE BRIGHT
SIDE. LOSER GETS TO
BUY THE WINNER
A DRINK.

IF
SHE'LL LET
HIM.



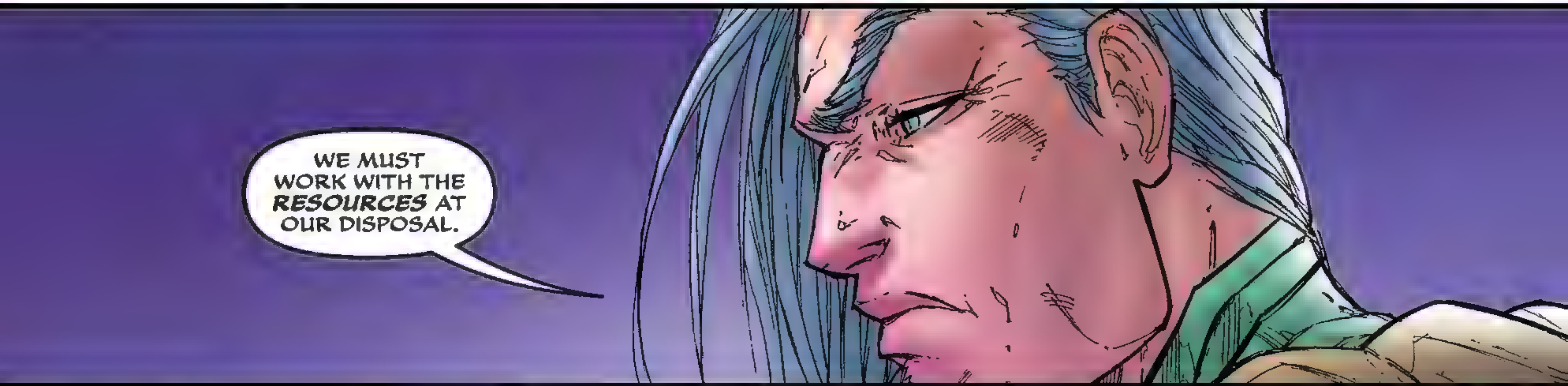


NO WINGS
OR EXTERNAL SIGNS
OF MAGIC?



YEAH,
SLIM PICKINGS,
TONIGHT.

BUT, HE
WAS **DAZZLING**
FANS WITH A LIGHT
SHOW AT A **RAVE**
IN NOB HILL.



WE MUST
WORK WITH THE
RESOURCES AT
OUR DISPOSAL.



BLACKJACK--
LET'S GET HIM
INSIDE.

I CAN HELP.

THAT WON'T
BE NECESSARY.
WE CAN TAKE IT
FROM HERE.



WHY ARE
YOU KEEPING
ME OUT, **RAINIER**?
WHY DOES SHE GET
TO SEE BEHIND THE
CURTAIN, BUT
NOT ME?

BECAUSE
I CAN BUY HER
TRUST.





j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARGINIEGA • josh REED



#3

COVER A

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™



46 RITTER



ASPEN

10
FOR
10

#3

COVER B

J.T. KRUL • V. Ken MARION • ERICK ARCINIEGA • JOSH REED

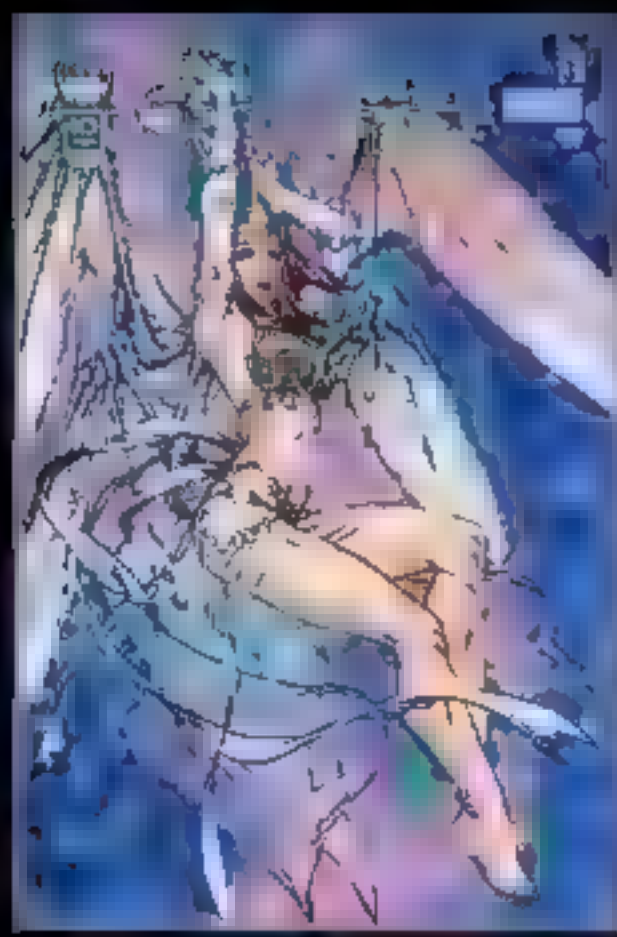
SMALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SULFIRE



ebae
Bla



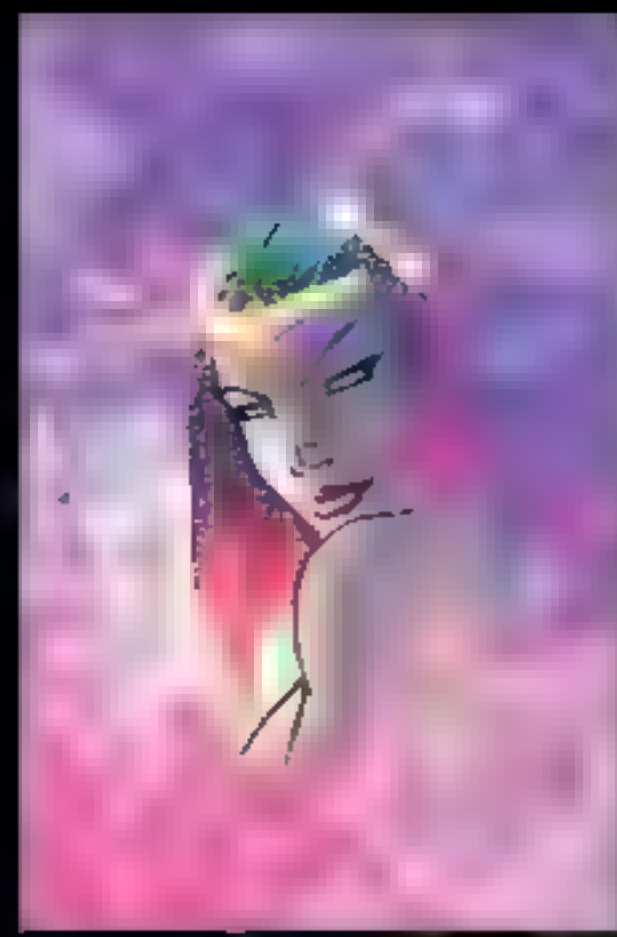
DIRECT EDITION
BY -V KEN MARION
& KYLE RITTER



SPECIAL RESERVED EDITION
BY -ERIC BASALDUA
& PETER STEIGERWALD



RETAILER INCENTIVE
SKETCH EDITION
BY -ERIC BASALDUA



ASPENSTORE.COM
VALENTINE'S DAY EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION OF 214
BY -MICHAEL TURNER
& PETER STEIGERWALD

J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

soulfire created by michael turner

"Light My Fire"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

GRACE ENCOUNTERS VANTSS, A MAGICAL BEING MUCH LIKE HERSELF BUT WITH A POSITIVE SPIRIT. UNLIKE MOST, MEANWHILE, MALAKAI AND SONIA DISCOVER A GROUP OF MAGICAL BELIEVERS KNOWN AS GABRIEL'S VOICE, BUT SONIA IS CONCERNED ABOUT YET ANOTHER COLLECTION OF MAGICAL DEVOTEES AND THEIR TRUE MOTIVES. MEANWHILE, RAINIER CONTINUES TO WITHIN POWER FROM THE HELPLESS MAGICAL BEINGS HIS HIRED HANDS, BLACKJACK AND JAYDEN, BRING HIM. YET, JAYDEN BEGINS TO QUESTION HER ROLE WITHIN HIS POWER CIRCLE...

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issue 3

FEBRUARY 2014. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite, 111, Culver City, CA 90230, The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and its logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

FOR ASPEN:
Founder: MICHAEL TURNER
Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD
Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO
Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ
Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED
Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS
Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL
AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP
Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

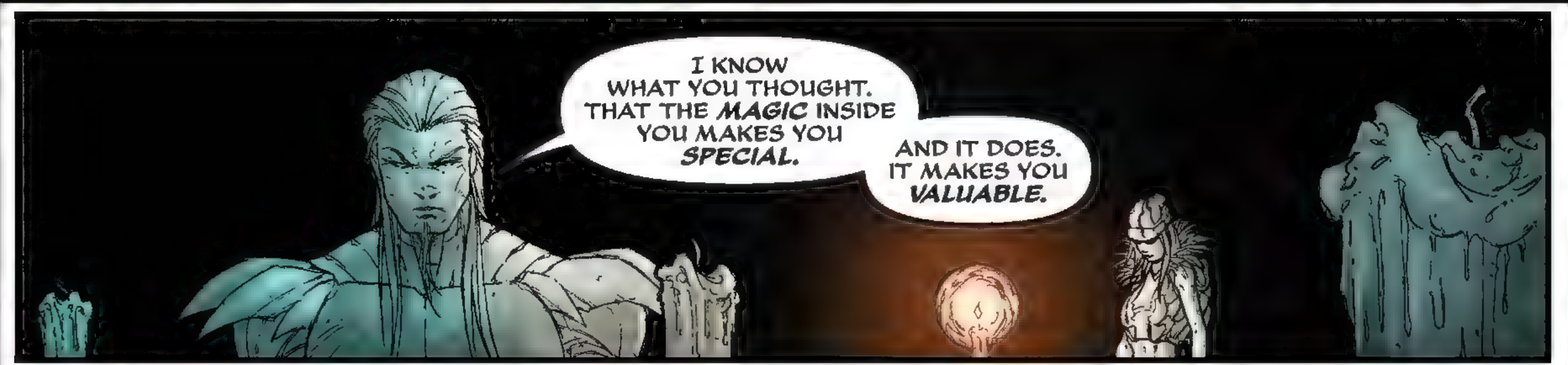
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@CFLOYSTUDIO.COM]

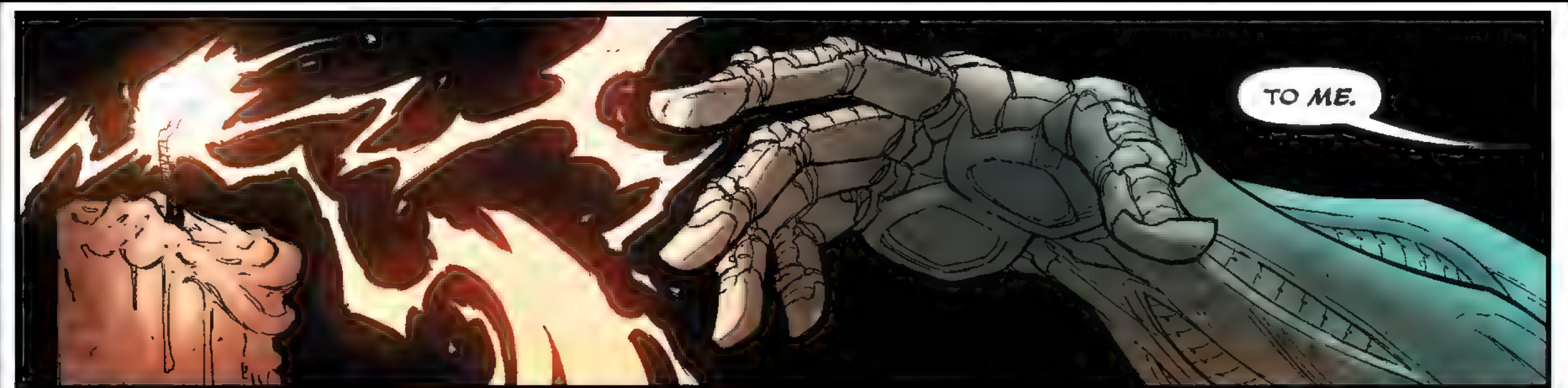


PLEASE...
PLEASE, DON'T
HURT ME!



I KNOW
WHAT YOU THOUGHT.
THAT THE *MAGIC* INSIDE
YOU MAKES YOU
SPECIAL.

AND IT DOES.
IT MAKES YOU
VALUABLE.



TO ME.



I COULD
PUT YOUR MIND
AT EASE. TELL YOU
THAT EVERYTHING WILL
BE *OKAY*, IF YOU
DO AS I SAY.



BUT
I AM NOT
A *LIAR*.



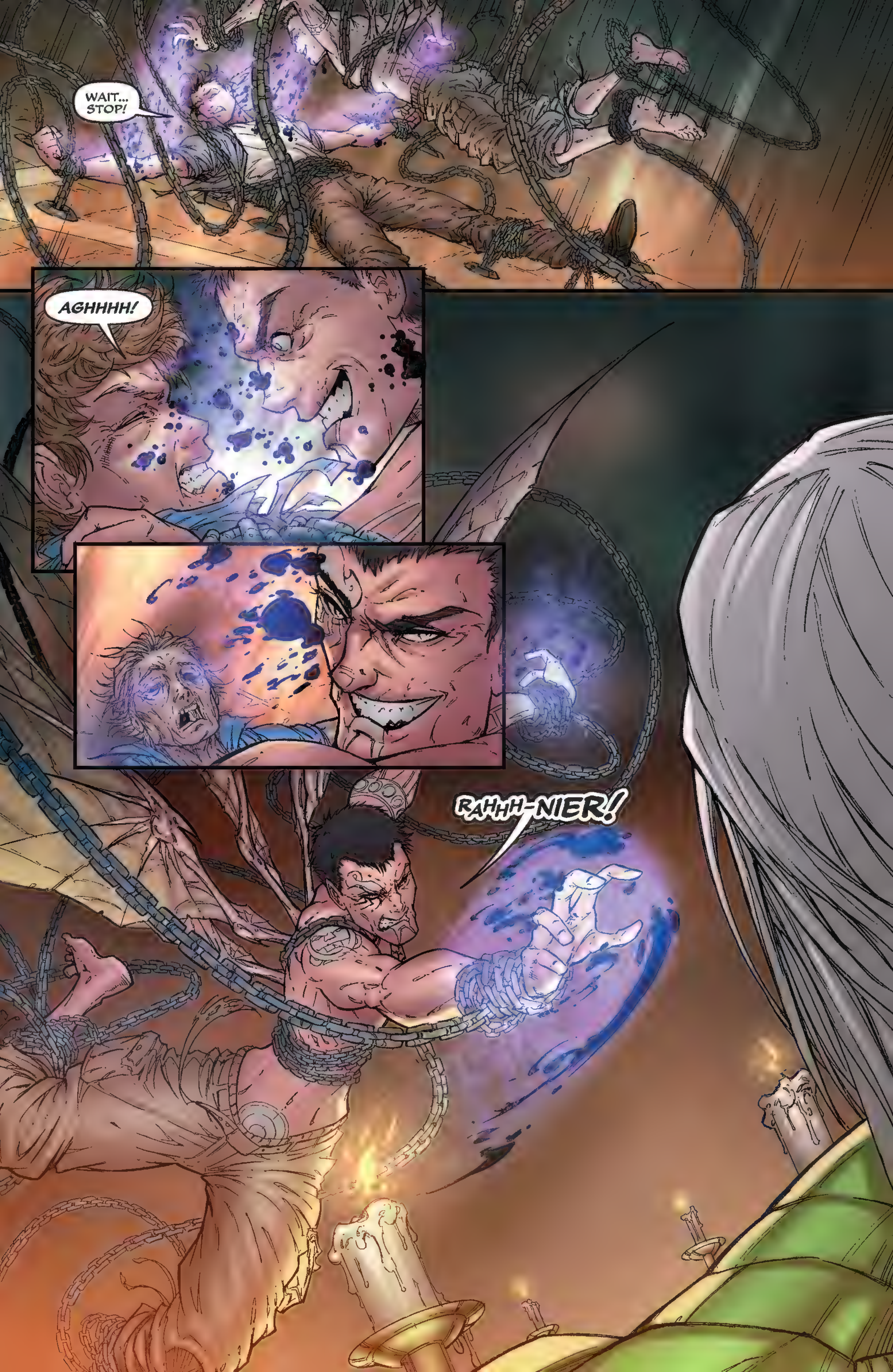
AND
YOU ARE NOT A
HOSTAGE.



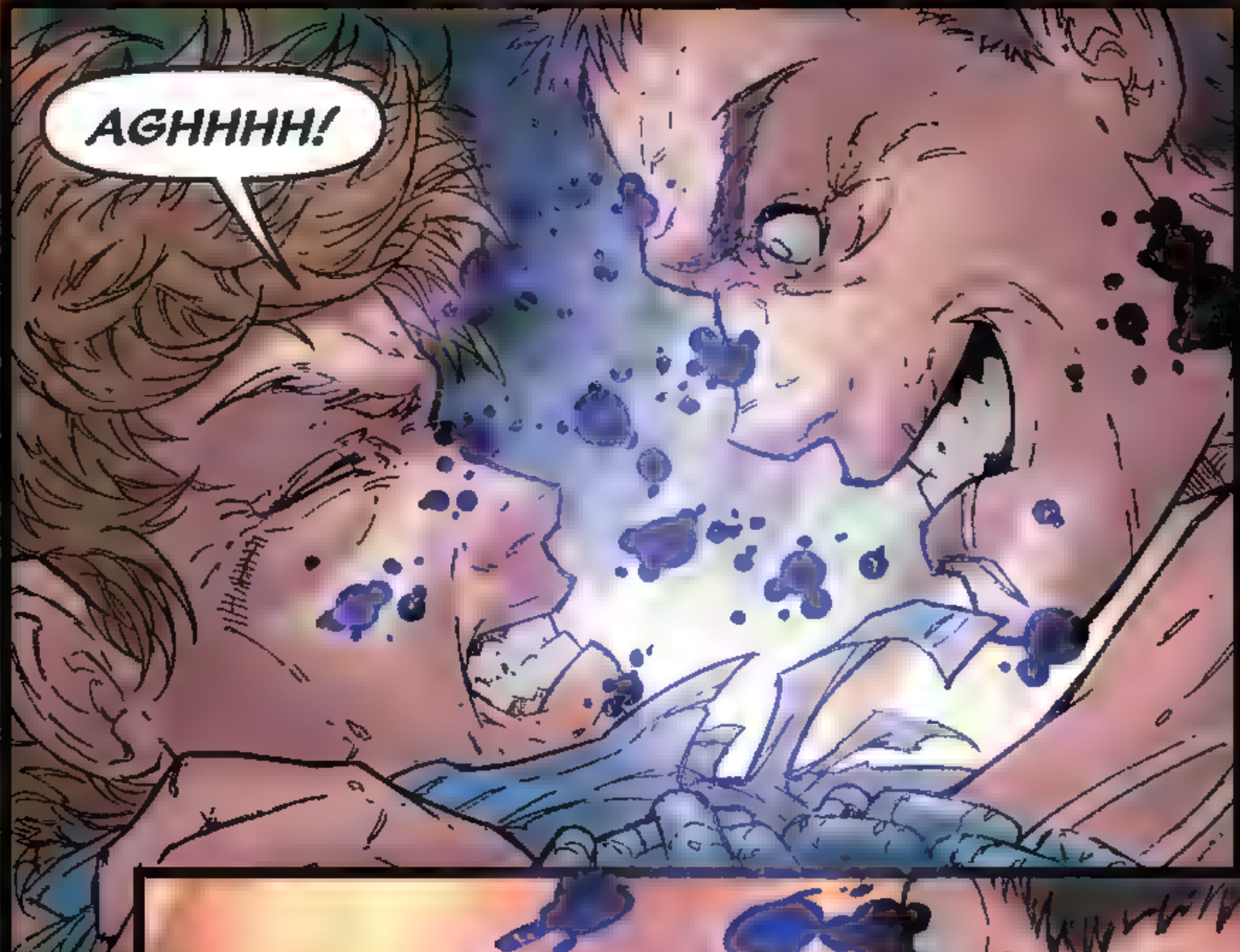
NO...



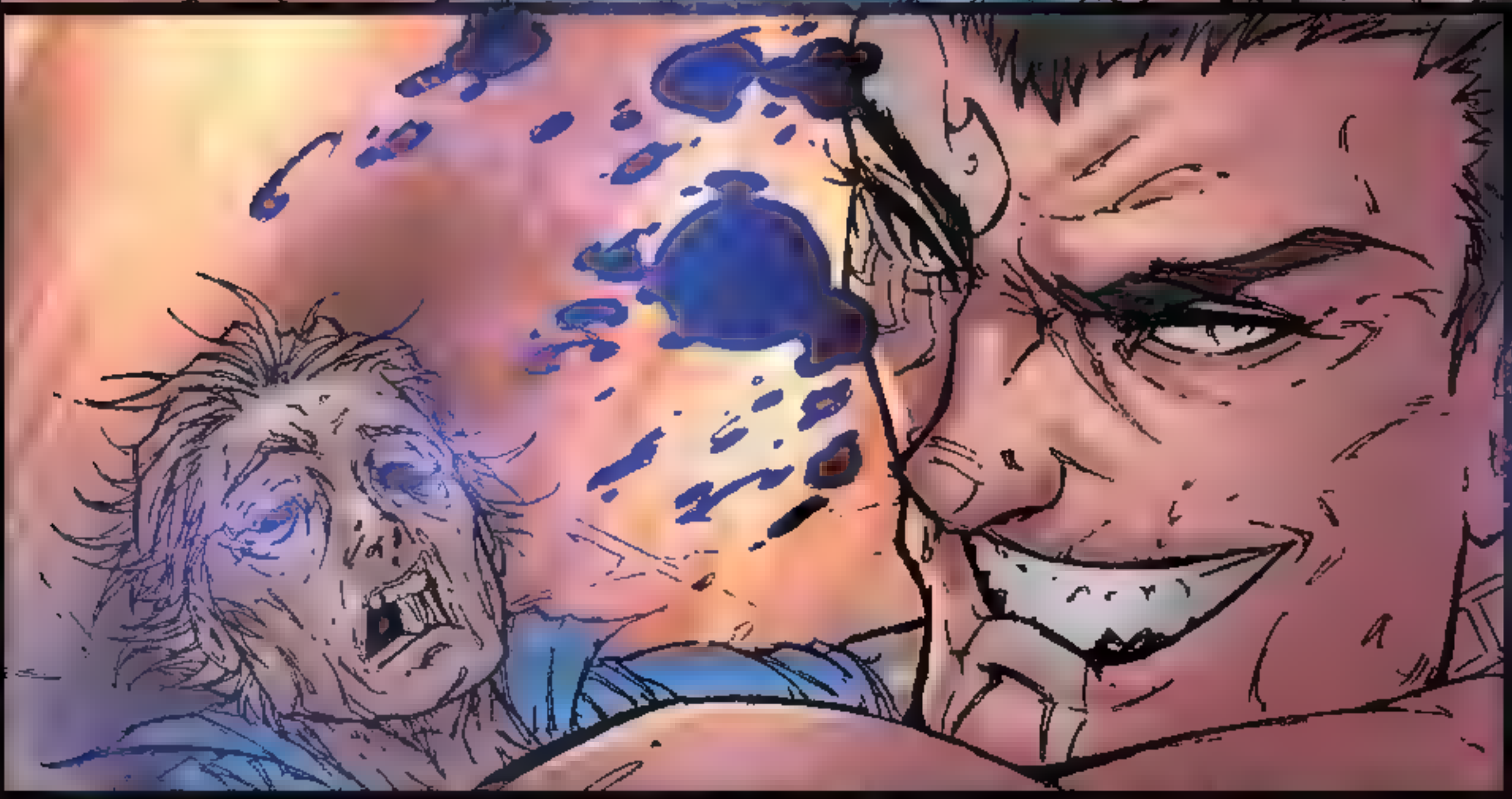
YOU ARE A
SACRIFICE.



WAIT...
STOP!



AGHHHH!

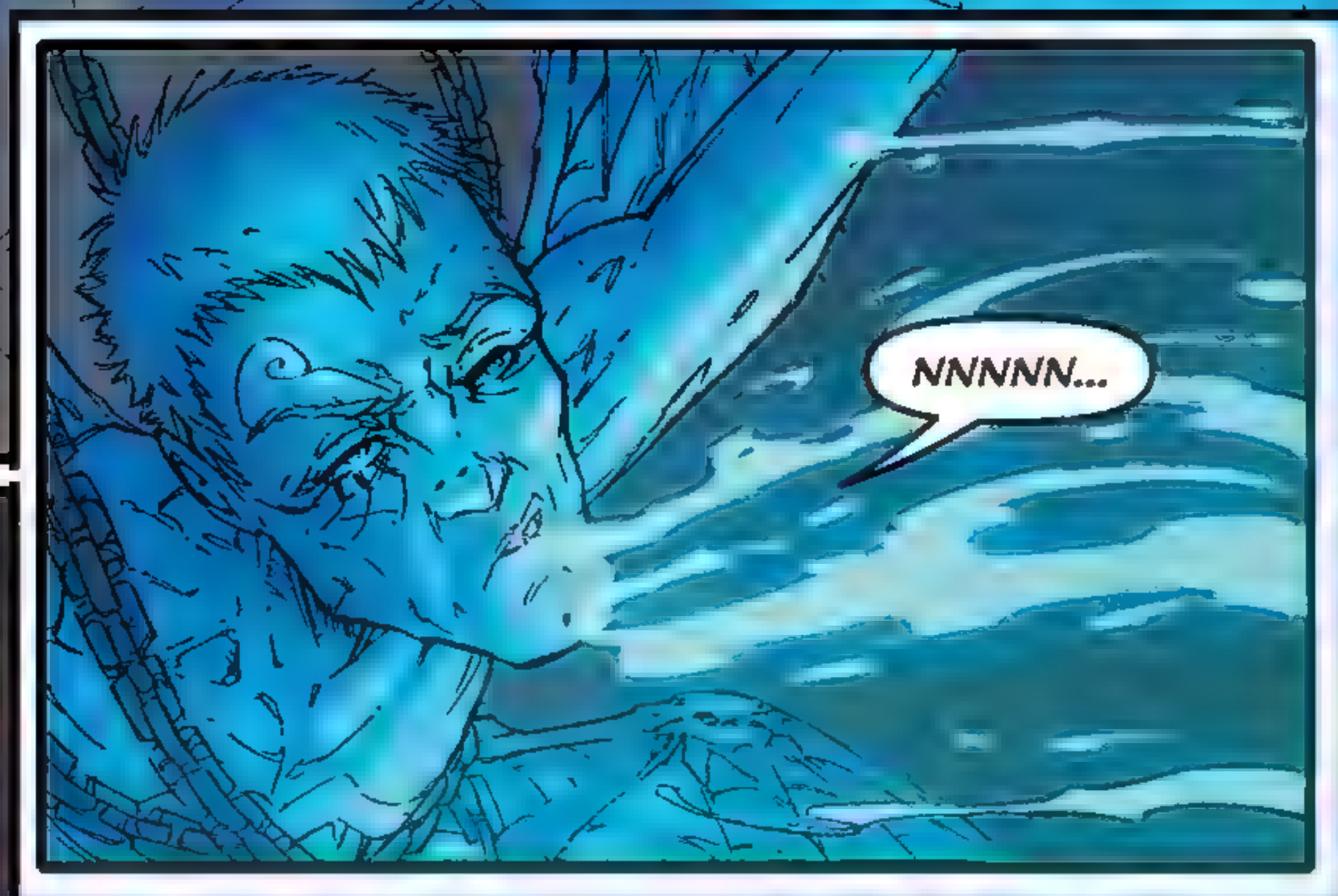


RAHH-NIER!



YOU KNOW
HOW THIS WORKS,
COLE.

I GIVE
TO YOU, BUT
YOU GIVE TO
ME.

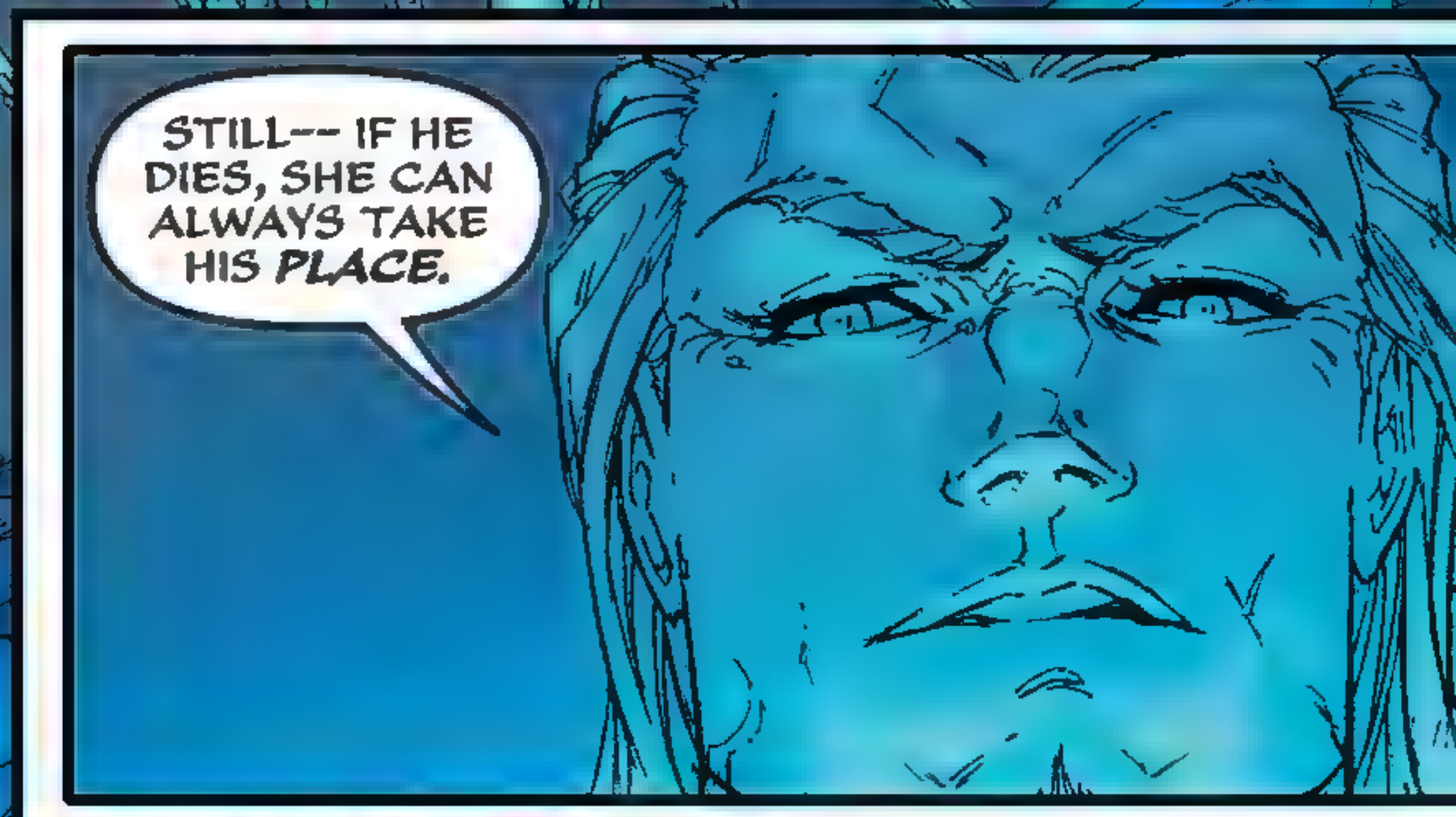


NNNNN...



AREN'T
YOU AFRAID YOU'LL
SIPHON TOO MUCH
FROM HIM, **RAINIER?**
IT COULD **KILL**
HIM.

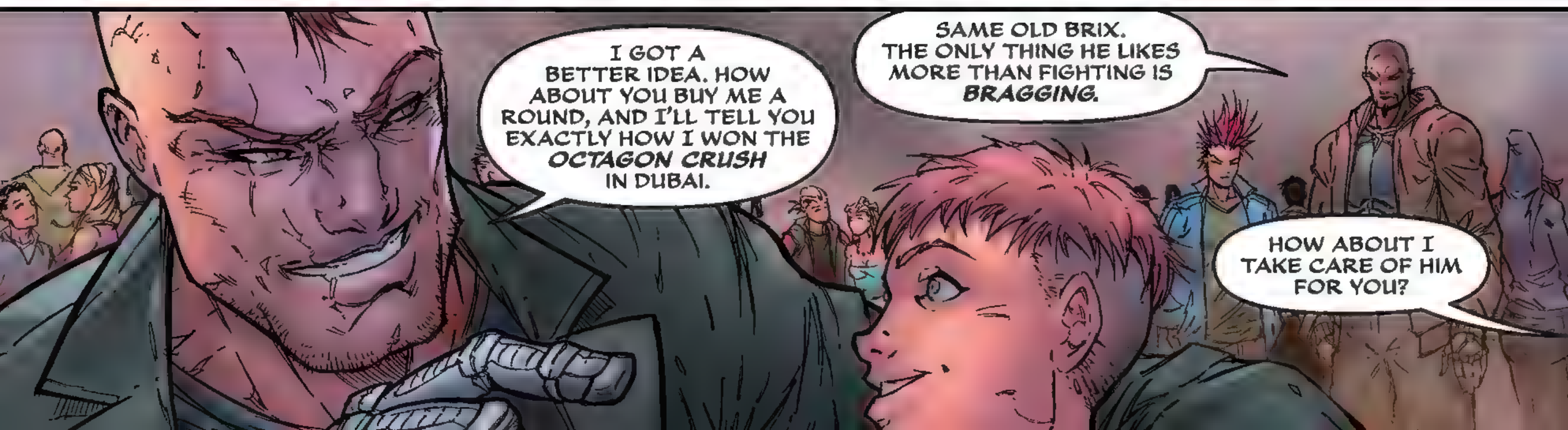
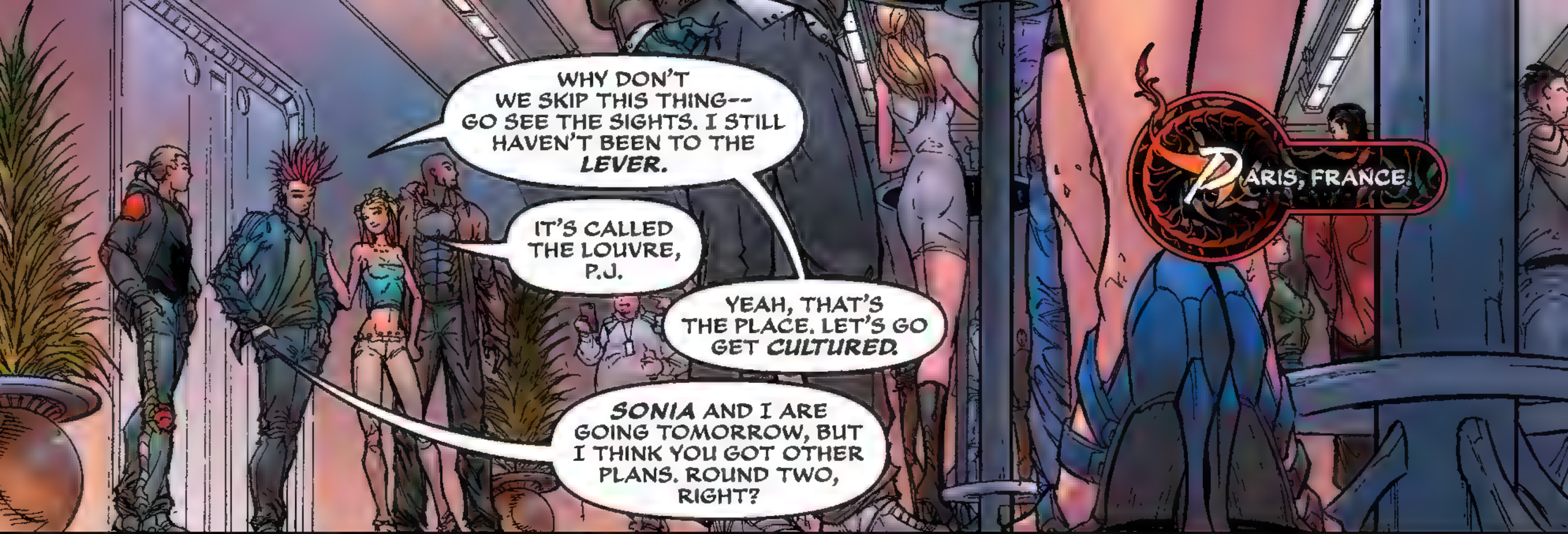
HIS ABILITY
TO ABSORB MAGIC
DWARFS WHAT **JAYDEN** IS
CAPABLE OF. MAKES HIM TOO
DANGEROUS. NO TELLING HOW
POWERFUL HE COULD BECOME
IF HE WAS ALLOWED TO
KEEP FEEDING.



STILL-- IF HE
DIES, SHE CAN
ALWAYS TAKE
HIS **PLACE.**



LUCKY
HER.



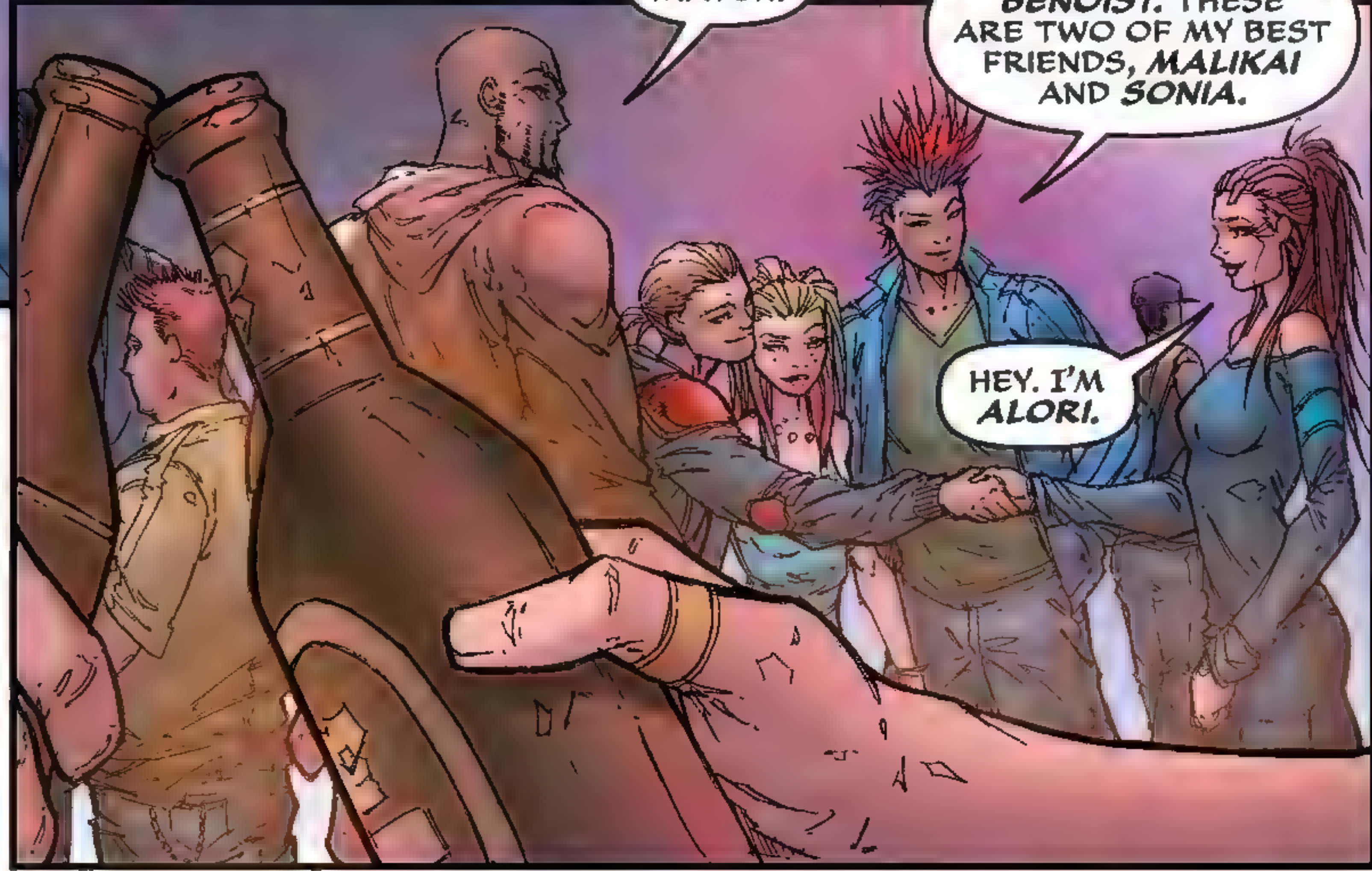


LEAST I CAN DO AFTER KICKING YOUR **BUTT** OUT THERE.

AND KICK IT YOU DID.

IT WAS A GOOD MATCH.

YOU KNOW **BENOIST**. THESE ARE TWO OF MY BEST FRIENDS, **MALIKAI** AND **SONIA**.



HEY. I'M **ALORI**.



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US, THIS ONE **OWES** ME A DRINK.



THE BAR IS **THAT** WAY.

I HATE THESE THINGS, DON'T YOU? TOO MUCH **EGO** UNDER ONE ROOF.

I THOUGHT WE'D HIT THE **TOWN**. HAVE OUR OWN ROUND TWO.

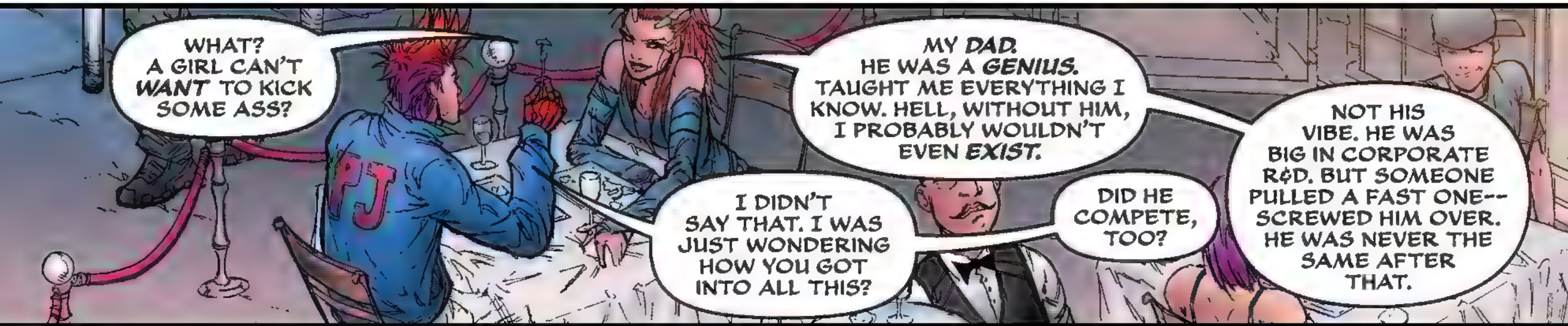
I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.



BRIX IS LUCKY. BENOIST'S OLDER, BUT HE AIN'T OLD. HIS **BATTERIES** ARE LIKE FULLY RECHARGED AND THEN SOME.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO ARE PRETTY CLOSE.

I DON'T CALL HIM **PAPA BEAR** FOR NOTHING.



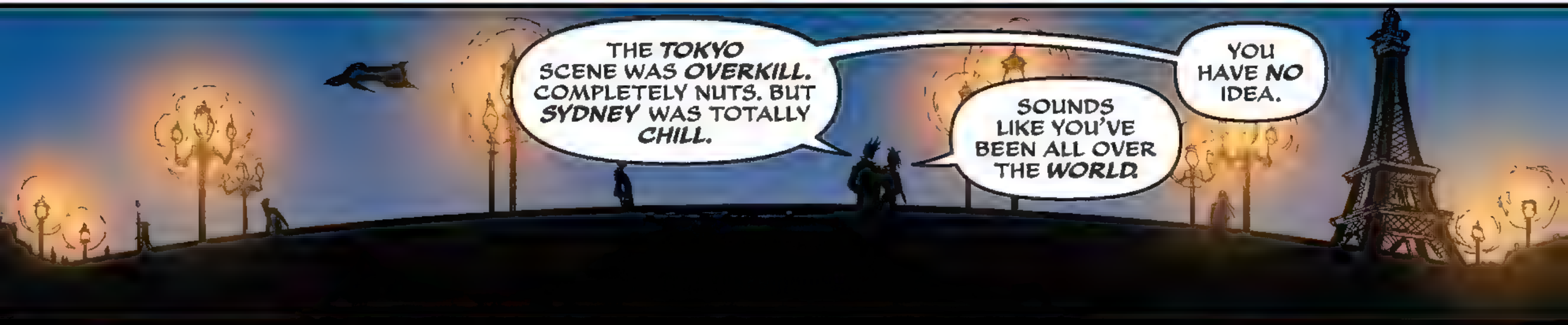
WHAT? A GIRL CAN'T WANT TO KICK SOME ASS?

MY DAD. HE WAS A **GENIUS**. TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW. HELL, WITHOUT HIM, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T EVEN **EXIST**.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW YOU GOT INTO ALL THIS?

DID HE COMPETE, TOO?

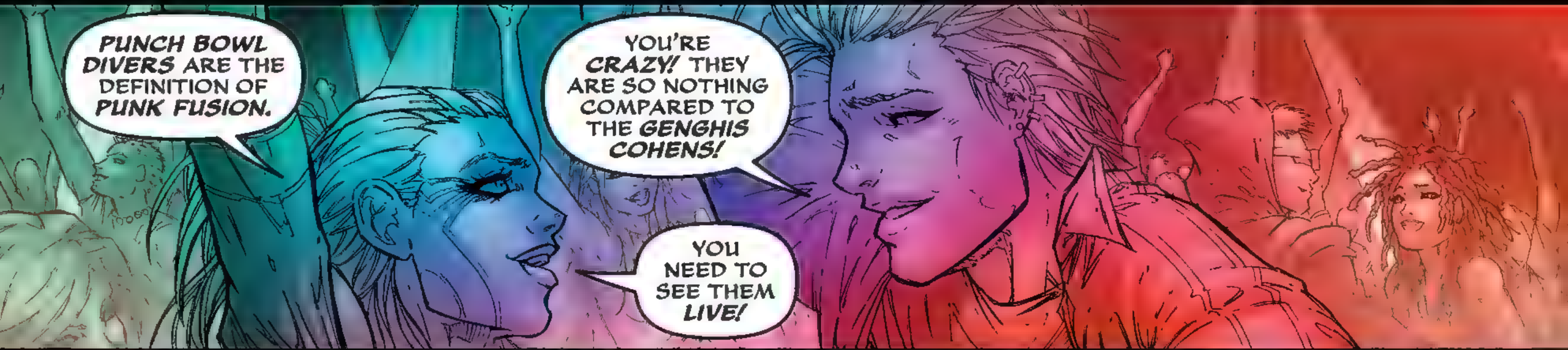
NOT HIS VIBE. HE WAS BIG IN CORPORATE R&D. BUT SOMEONE PULLED A FAST ONE-- SCREWED HIM OVER. HE WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT.



THE **TOKYO** SCENE WAS **OVERKILL**. COMPLETELY NUTS. BUT **SYDNEY** WAS TOTALLY **CHILL**.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN ALL OVER THE **WORLD**

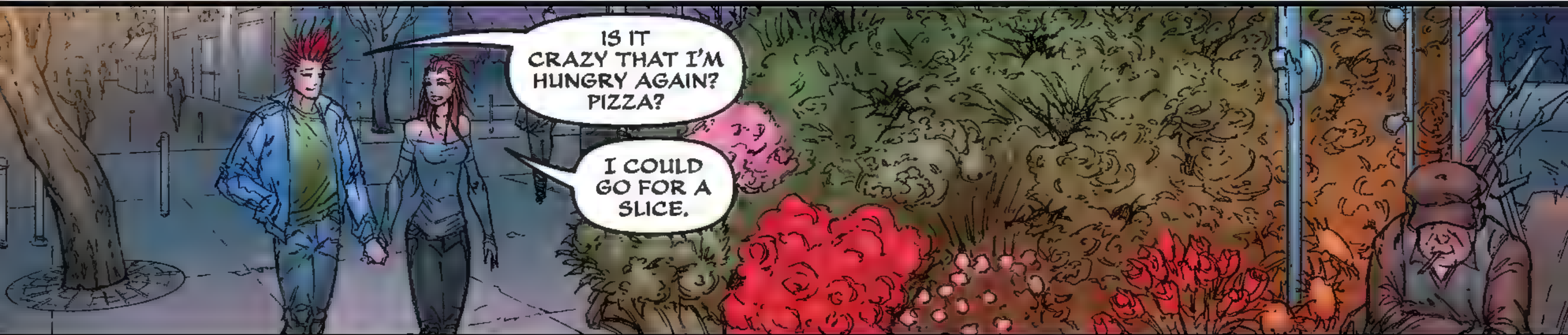
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.



PUNCH BOWL DIVERS ARE THE DEFINITION OF **PUNK FUSION**.

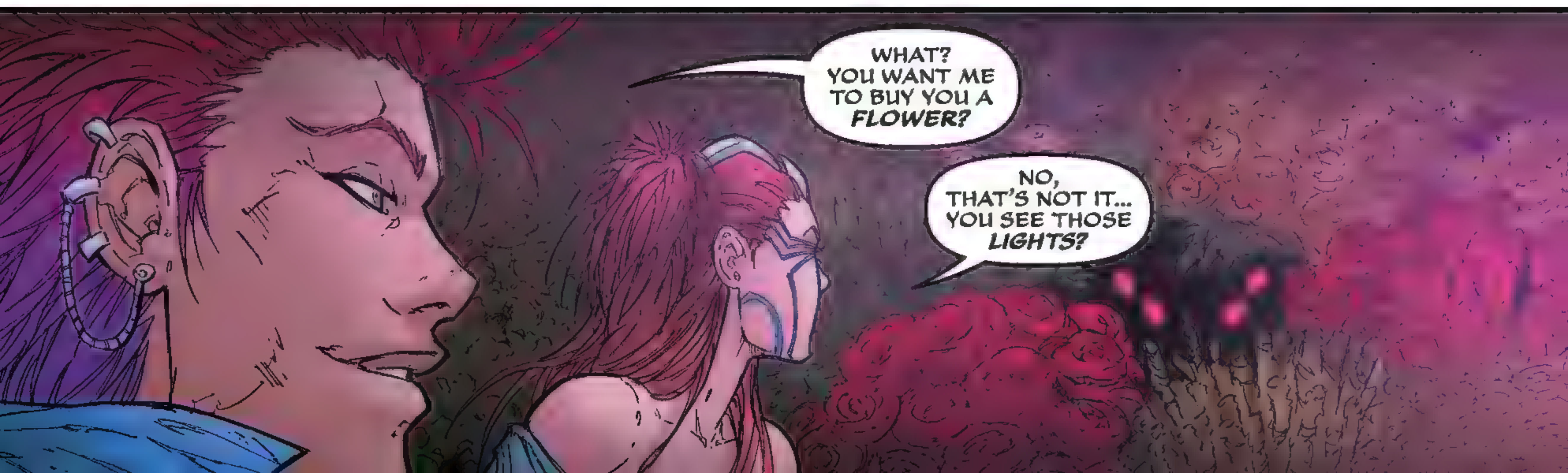
YOU'RE **CRAZY!** THEY ARE SO NOTHING COMPARED TO THE **GENGHIS COHENS!**

YOU NEED TO SEE THEM **LIVE!**



IS IT CRAZY THAT I'M HUNGRY AGAIN? PIZZA?

I COULD GO FOR A SLICE.



WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO BUY YOU A **FLOWER?**

NO, THAT'S NOT IT... YOU SEE THOSE **LIGHTS?**



RRROOARRRRR

WHAT ARE
THOSE SUPPOSED
TO BE?



WHATEVER
THEY ARE, IT'S
BAD NEWS!



WAS IT
SOMETHING WE
SAID?

MAYBE
WE CAN PLAY
NICE.

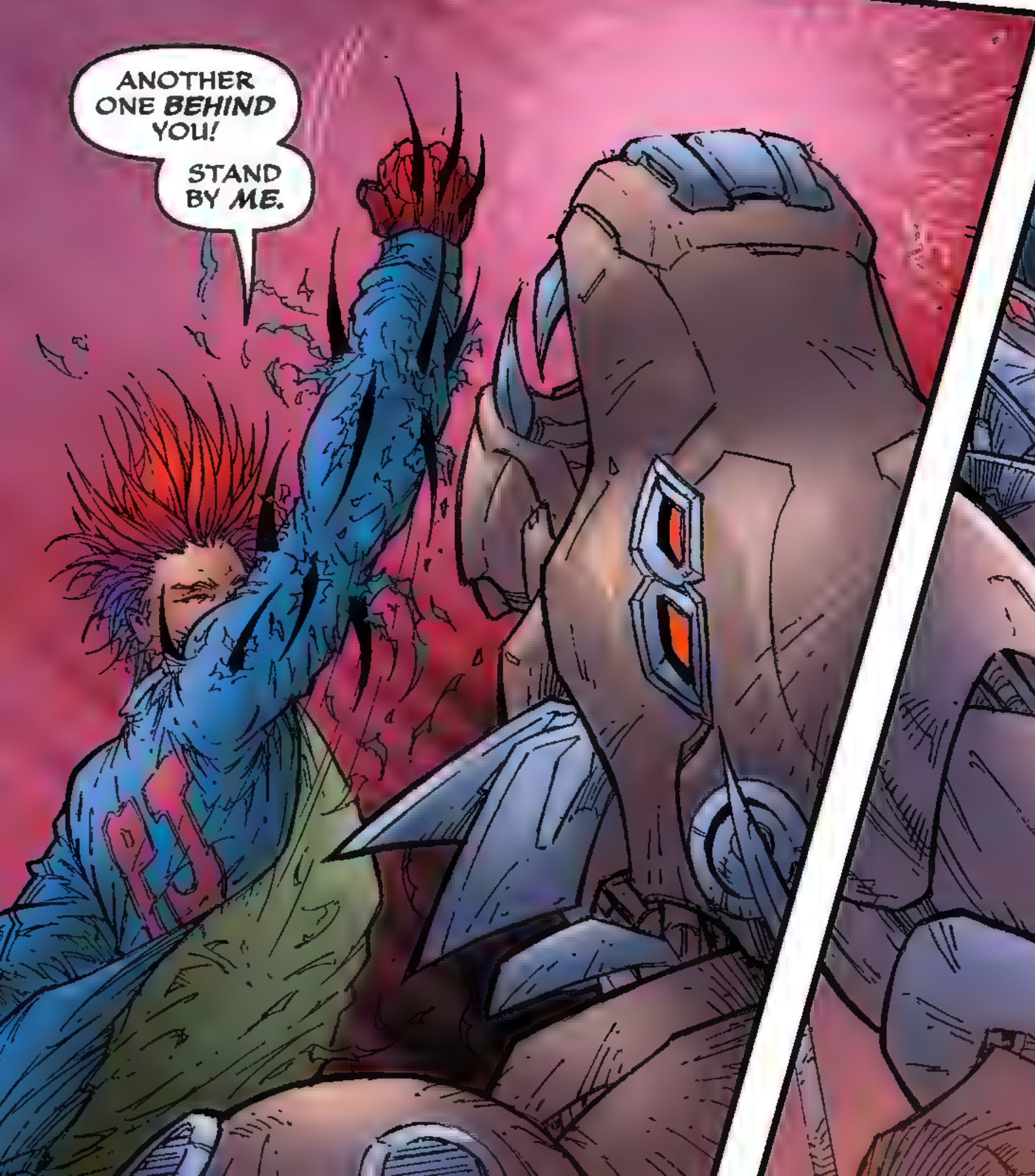


NOT
REALLY
MY **STYLE** AT
TIMES LIKE
THIS.

SHIIINK

SHIIINK

SHIIINK



ANOTHER
ONE **BEHIND**
YOU!

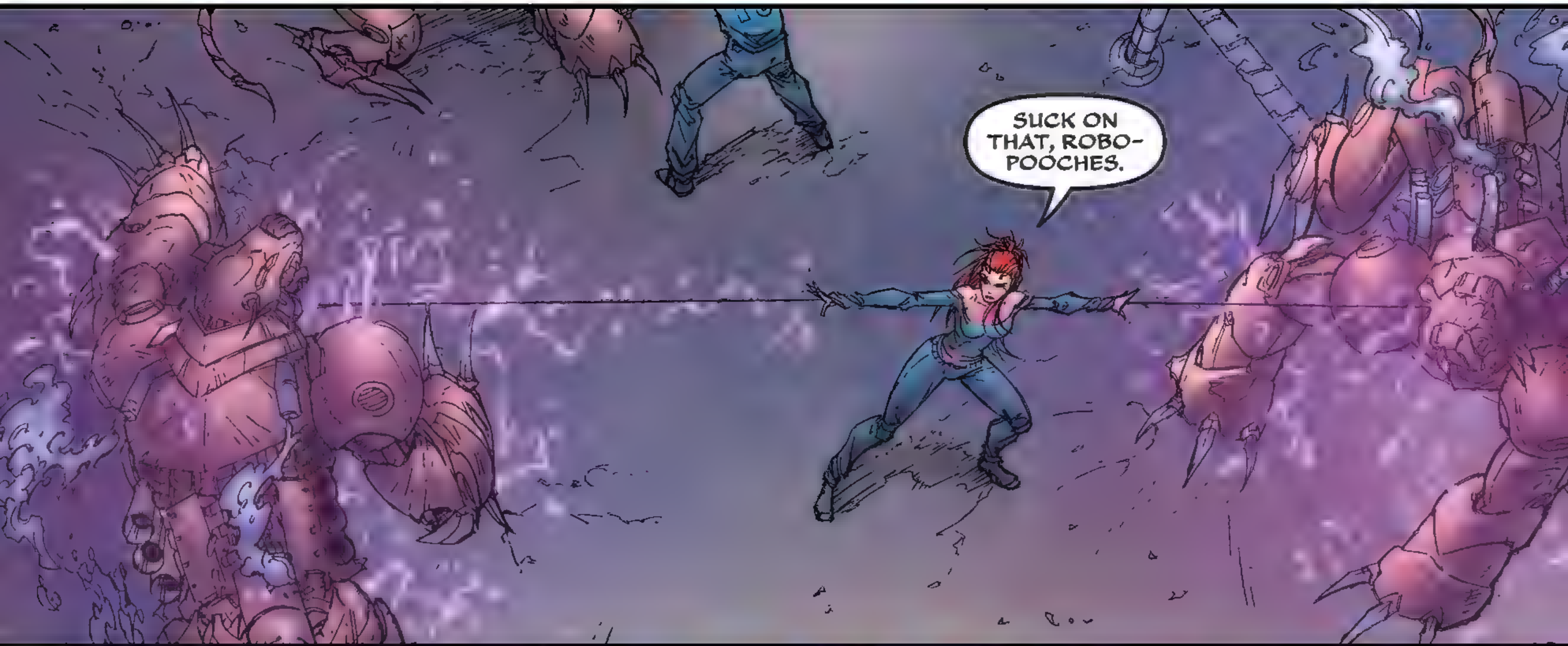
STAND
BY **ME**.



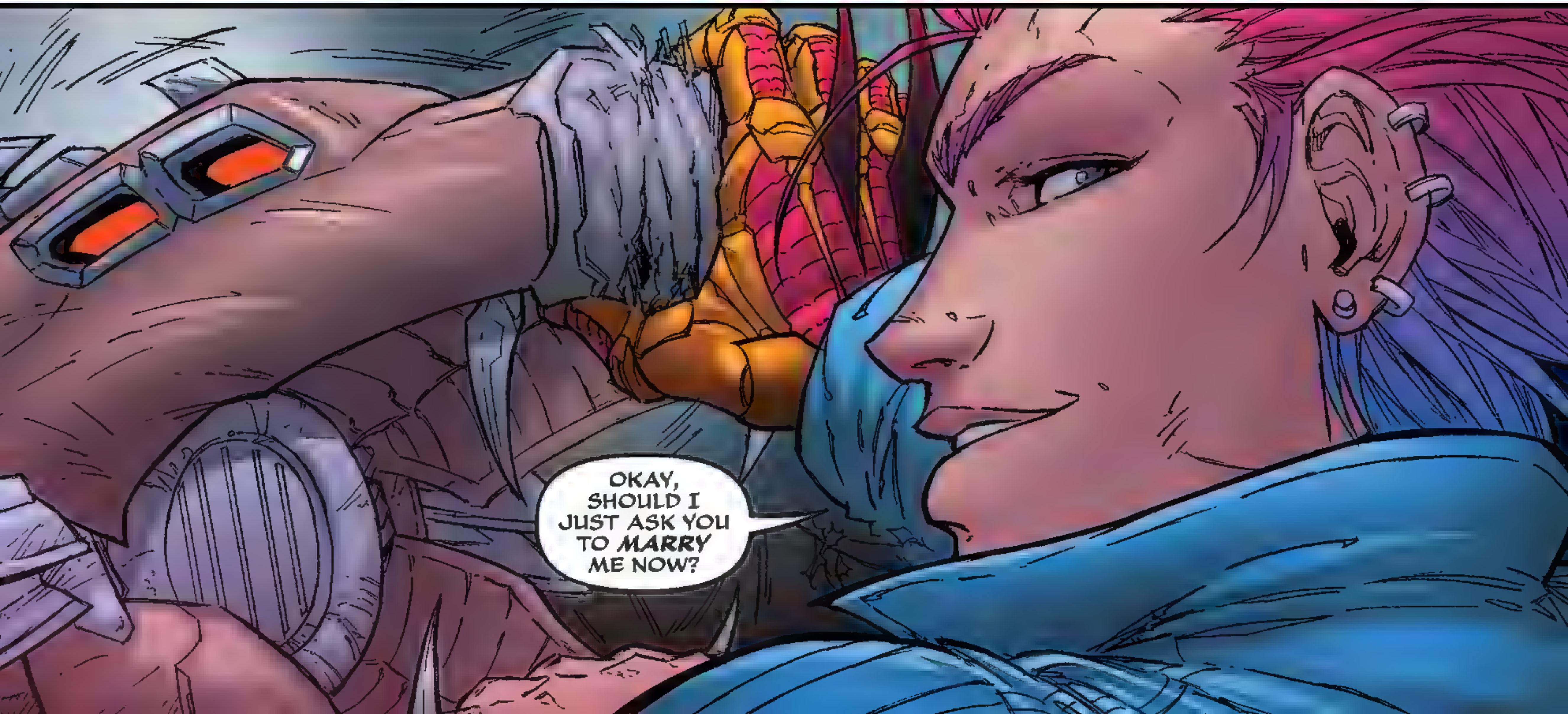
I MIGHT
NOT HAVE MY
MECH **GEAR**
WITH ME--



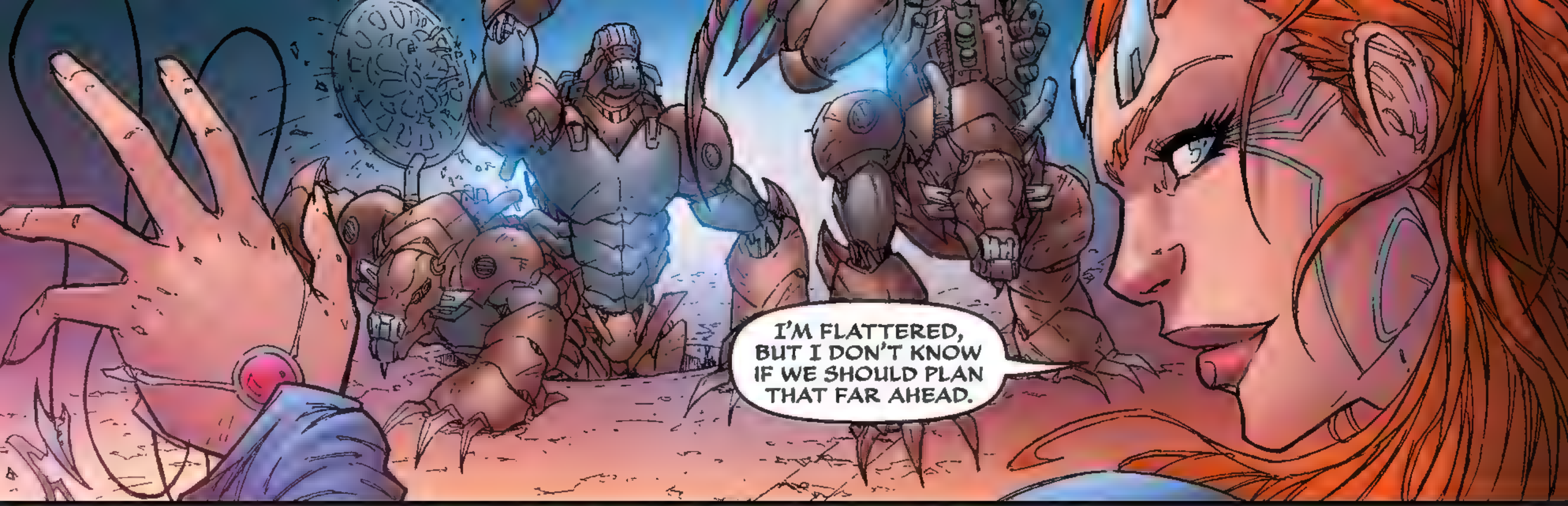
--BUT I
AIN'T EXACTLY
HELPLESS.



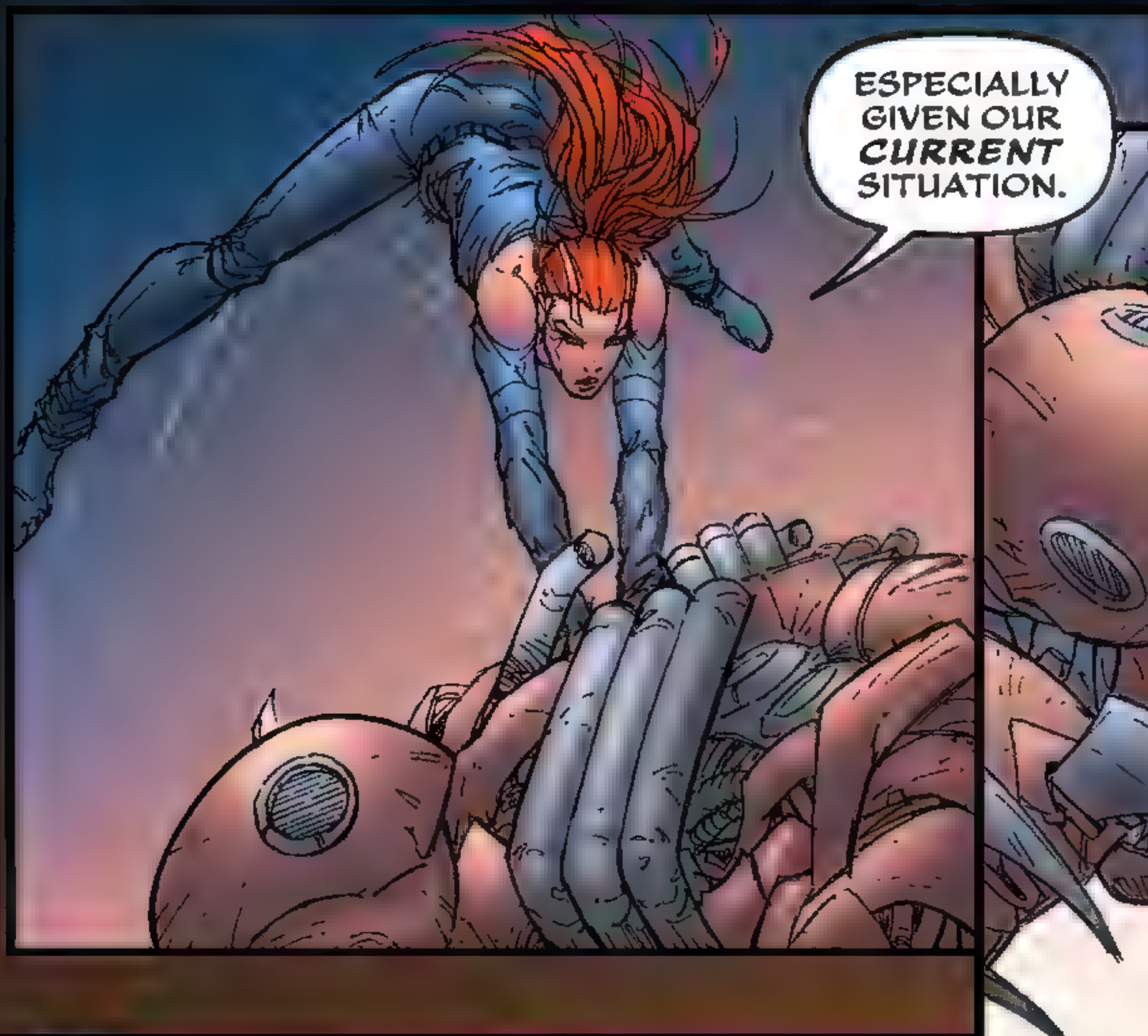
SUCK ON
THAT, ROBO-
POOCHES.



OKAY,
SHOULD I
JUST ASK YOU
TO MARRY
ME NOW?



I'M FLATTERED,
BUT I DON'T KNOW
IF WE SHOULD PLAN
THAT FAR AHEAD.



ESPECIALLY
GIVEN OUR
CURRENT
SITUATION.



-OOOFF!-



NOT
GOOD, P.J. NOT
GOOD.



FRRZZTTT



LUCKY
FOR YOU GUYS, MY
FAVORITE **VIETNAMESE**
PLACE IS AROUND THE
CORNER.

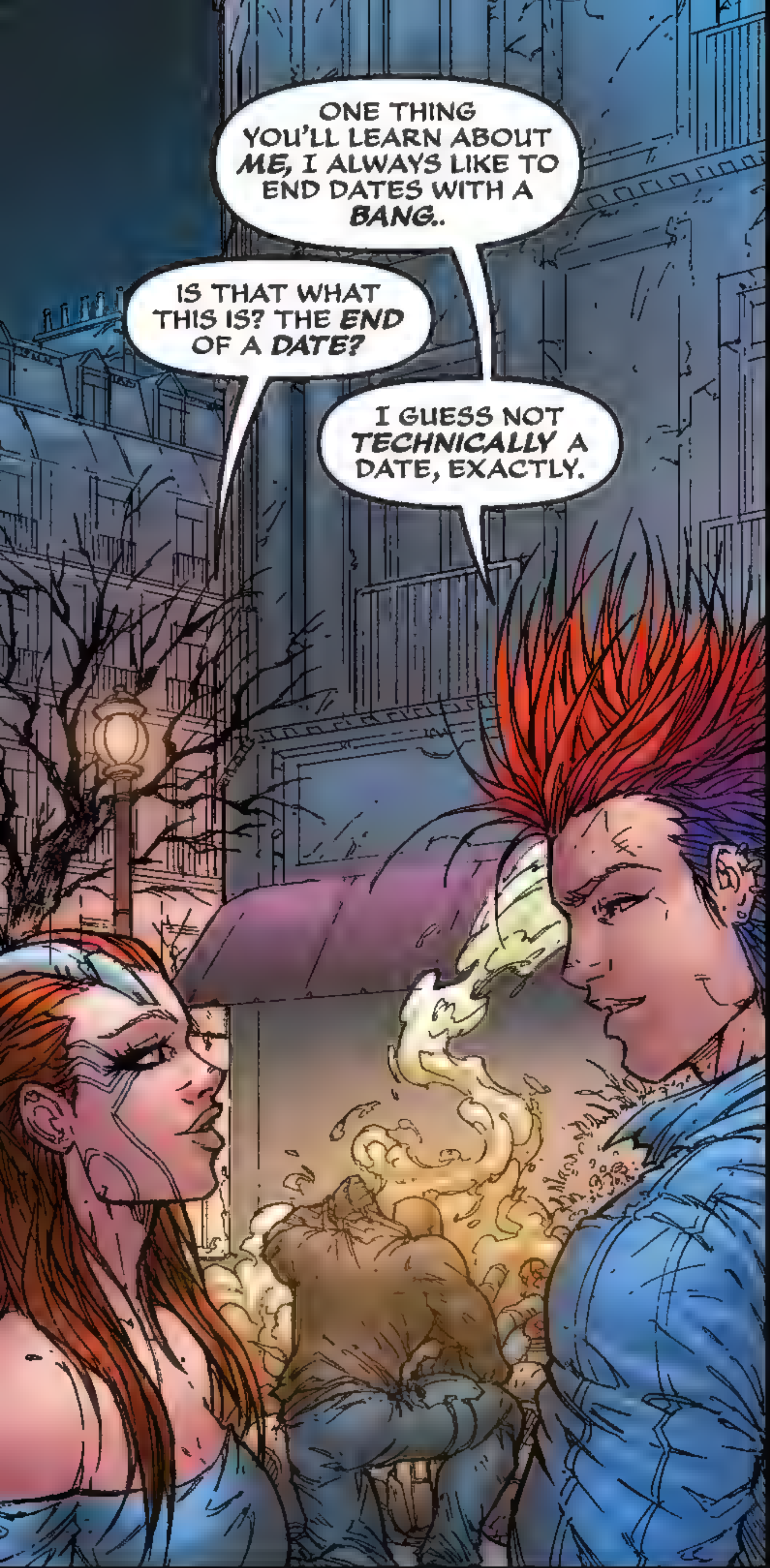
COULDN'T
YOU TWO KEEP THIS
STUFF IN THE **ARENA**?
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE
AN **UNDERGROUND**
EVENT.



HEY, DON'T
BLAME US. WE
DIDN'T START
THIS FIGHT.



BUT HOW
ABOUT WE
FINISH IT.



ONE THING YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT ME, I ALWAYS LIKE TO END DATES WITH A BANG..

IS THAT WHAT THIS IS? THE **END** OF A DATE?

I GUESS NOT **TECHNICALLY** A DATE, EXACTLY.



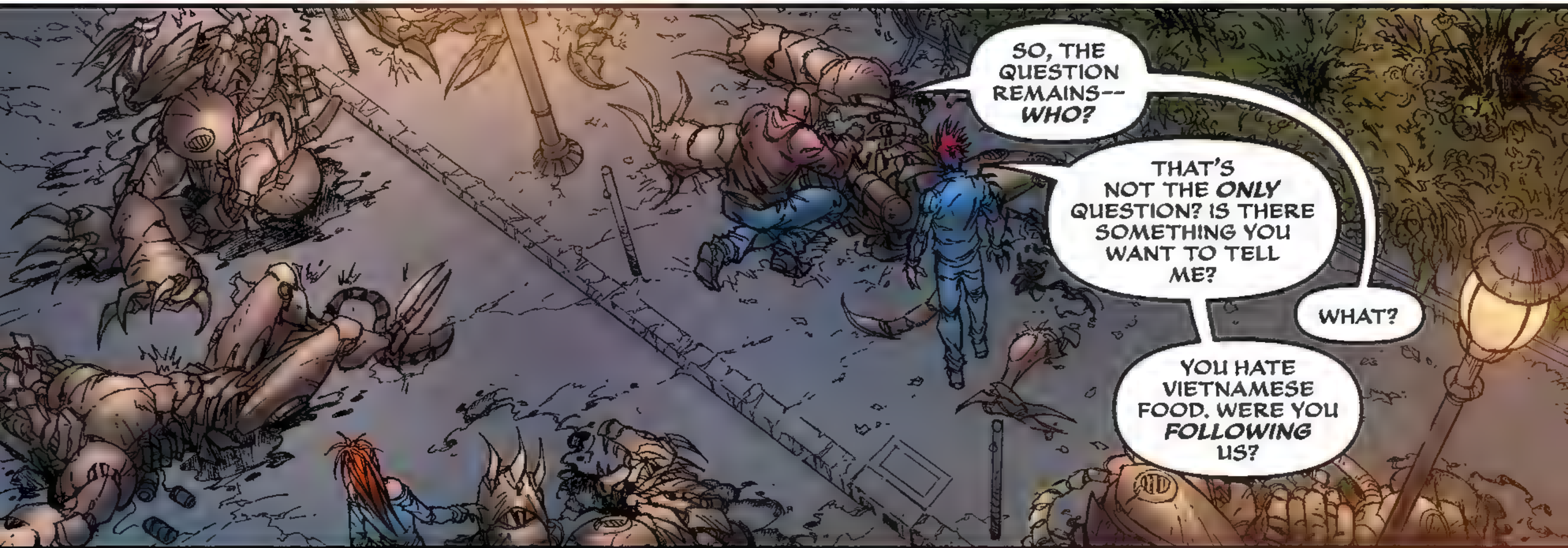
OH-- IT'S A DATE. I MEANT THE PART ABOUT THIS BEING THE **END** OF IT.

DON'T YOU **LOVEBIRDS** CARE WHAT THIS ATTACK WAS ALL ABOUT?



WE'RE COMPETING IN A HI-TECH BATTLE ROYALE. IS IT THAT **SHOCKING** TO THINK SOMEONE WANTED TO KNOCK OFF SOME OF THE **COMPETITION**?

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THIS TECHNOLOGY DOESN'T MATCH ANY OF THE OTHER **CONTESTANTS**.

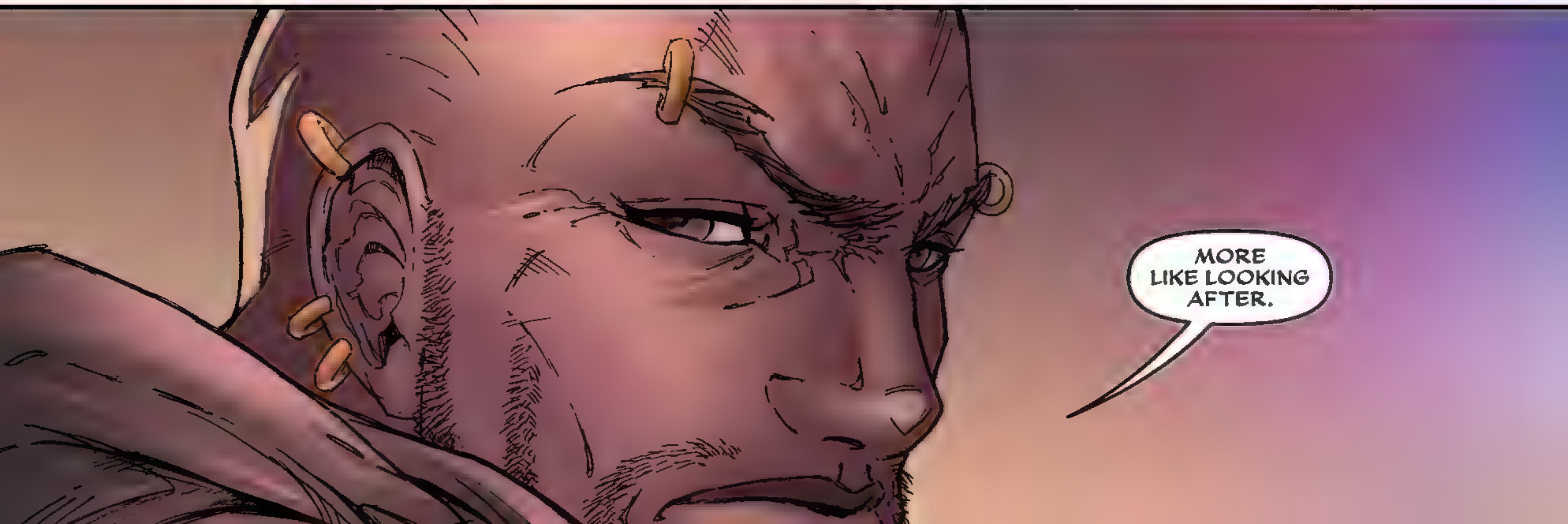


SO, THE QUESTION REMAINS-- **WHO**?

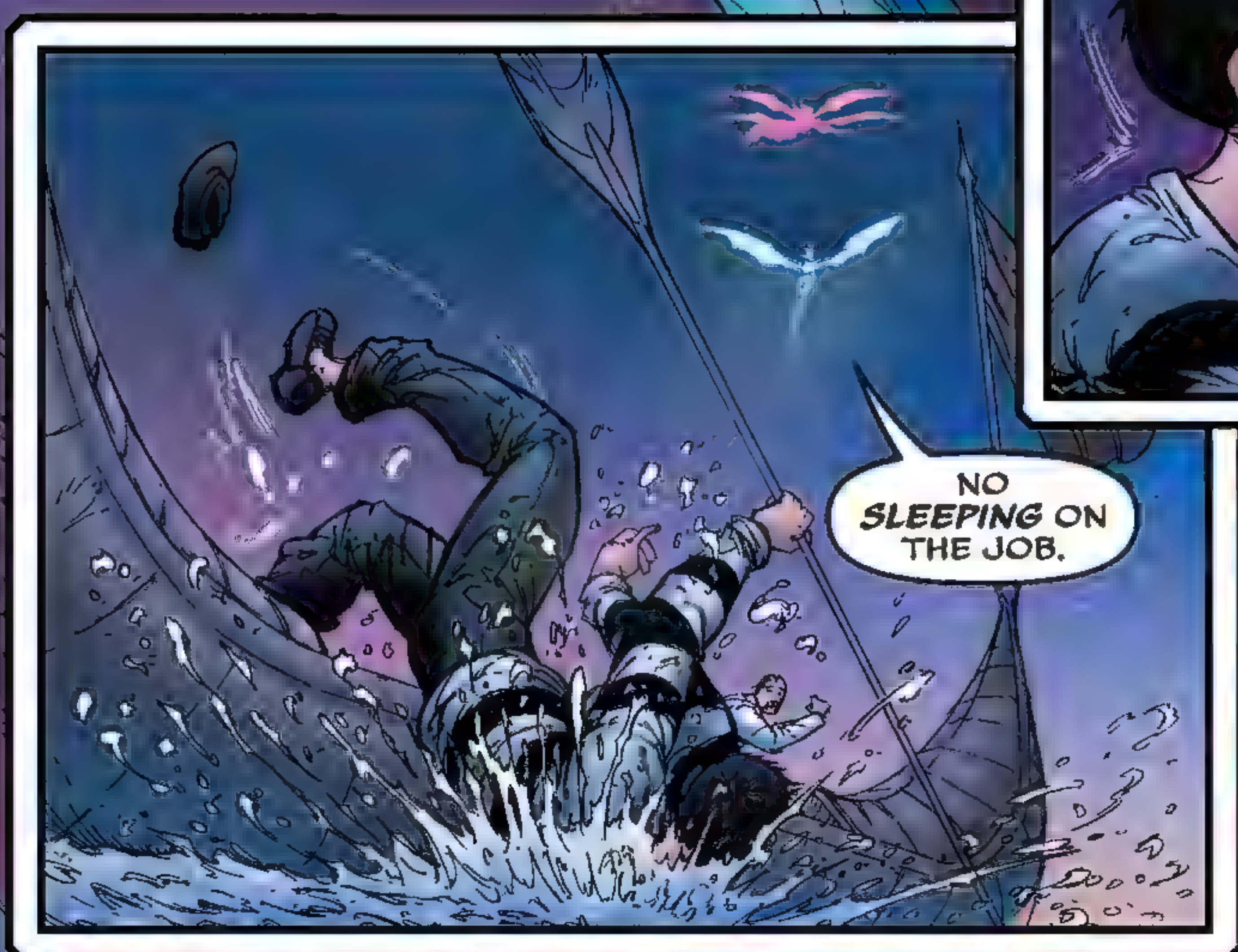
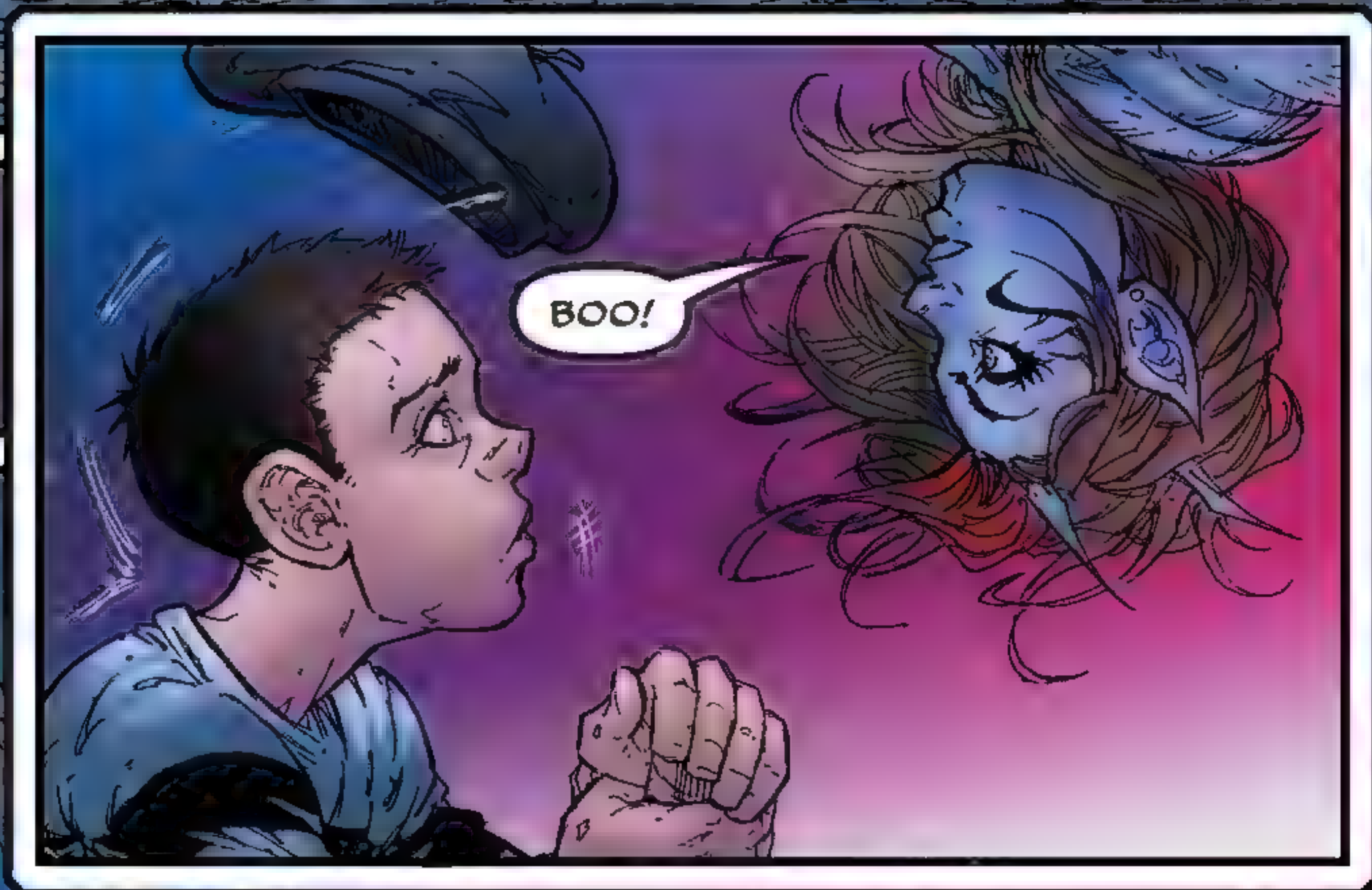
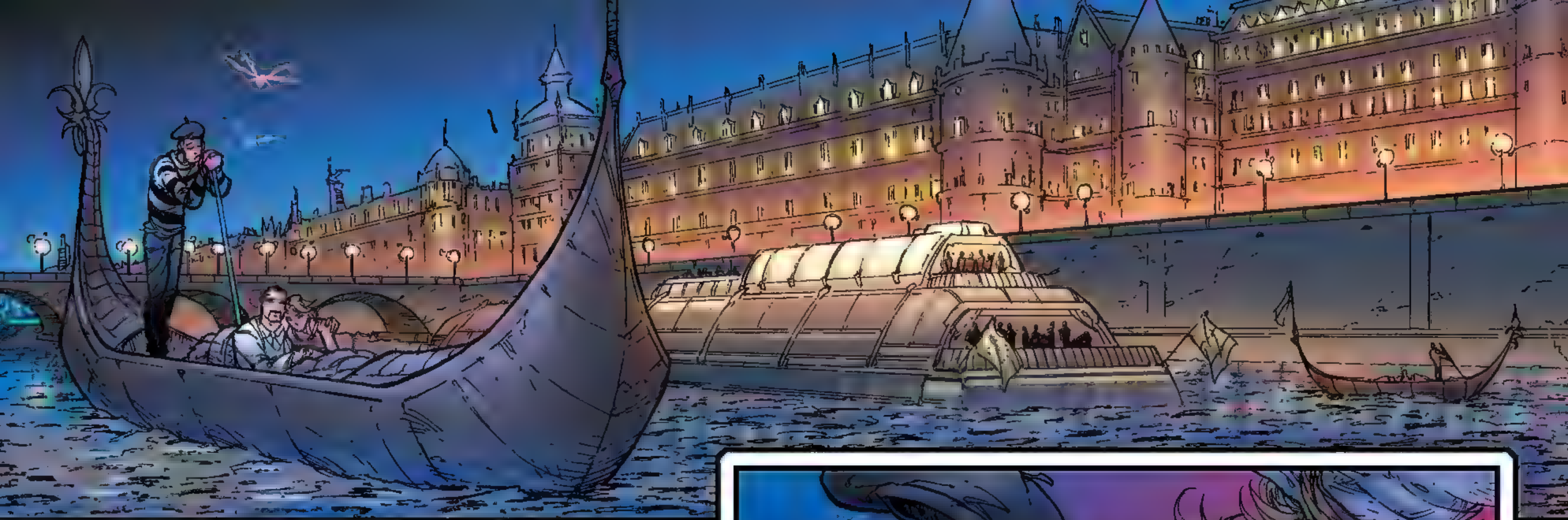
THAT'S NOT THE **ONLY** QUESTION? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME?

WHAT?

YOU HATE VIETNAMESE FOOD. WERE YOU **FOLLOWING** US?



MORE LIKE LOOKING AFTER.





FOR SOMEONE WHO THINKS THEY NEED TO *HIDE*, YOU SURE LIKE *PERCHING* YOURSELF ON HIGH FOR ALL TO SEE, *VANYSS*.

IT IS NOT AS IF I AM ON *DISPLAY*. MERELY HIDING IN THE *SHADOWS*-- WHICH, AS YOU CAN SEE, AGREES WITH MY *COMPLEXION*.

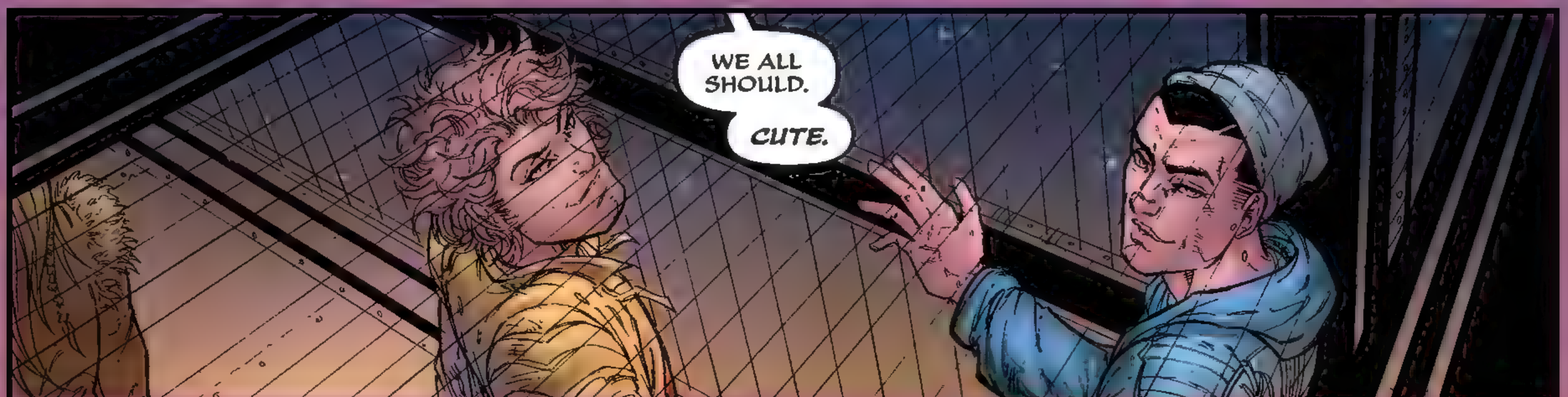
BESIDES-- I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I LIVED MY ENTIRE LIFE ON THE *GROUND*. A GOOD LIFE. BUT NOTHING LIKE NOW.



WHY SHOULD I NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS *MAGIC*?

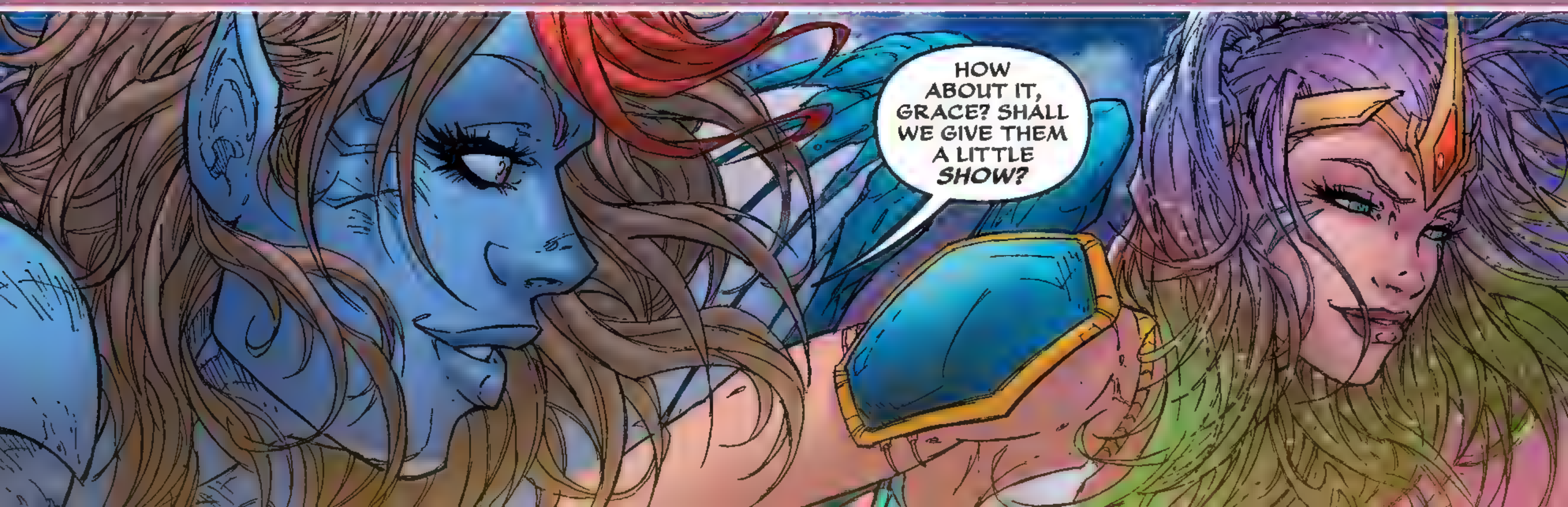


IT MAKES NO SENSE TO FIGHT IT. I MIGHT AS WELL *ENJOY* IT.



WE ALL SHOULD.

CUTE.

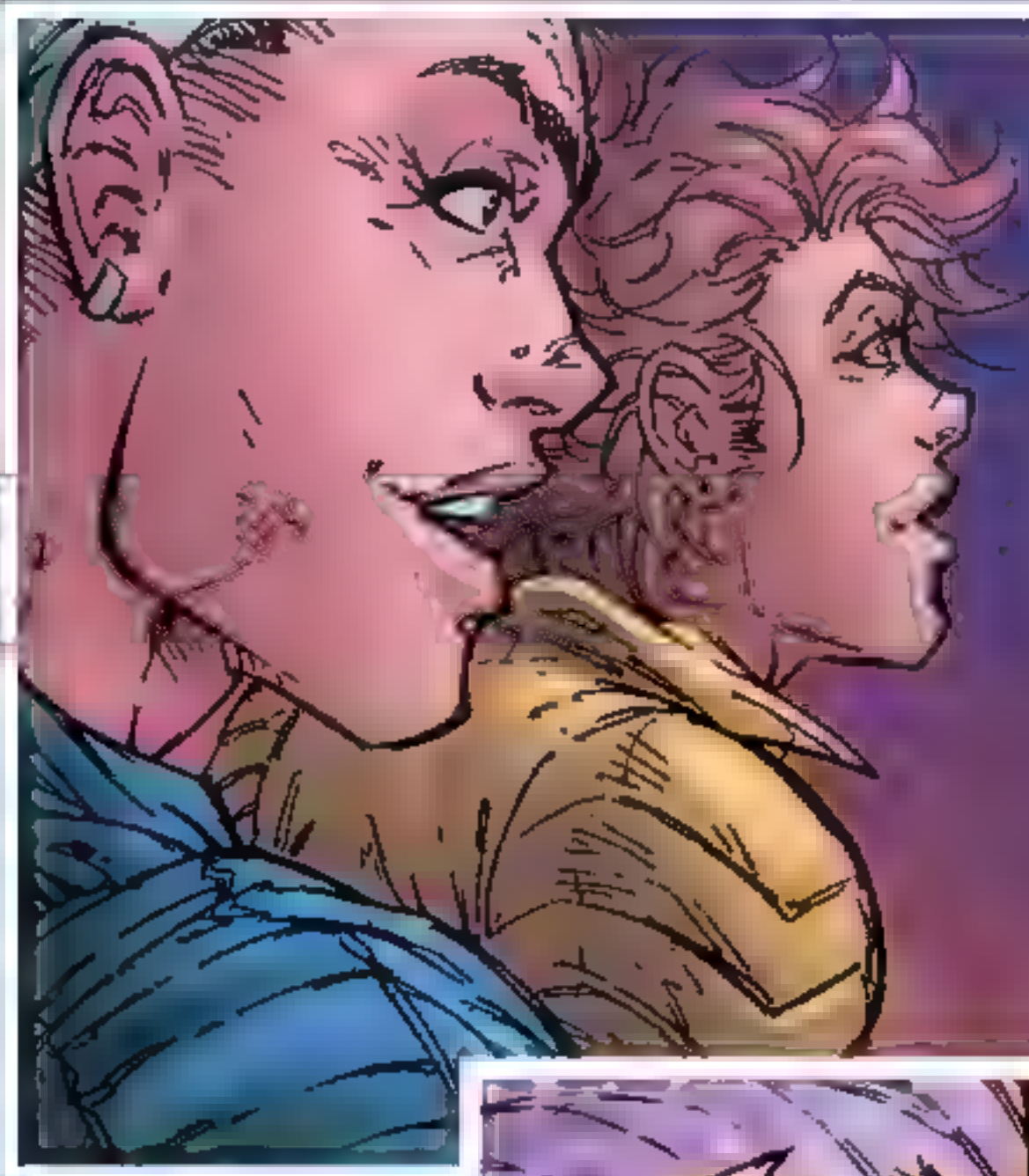


HOW ABOUT IT, *GRACE*? SHALL WE GIVE THEM A LITTLE *SHOW*?

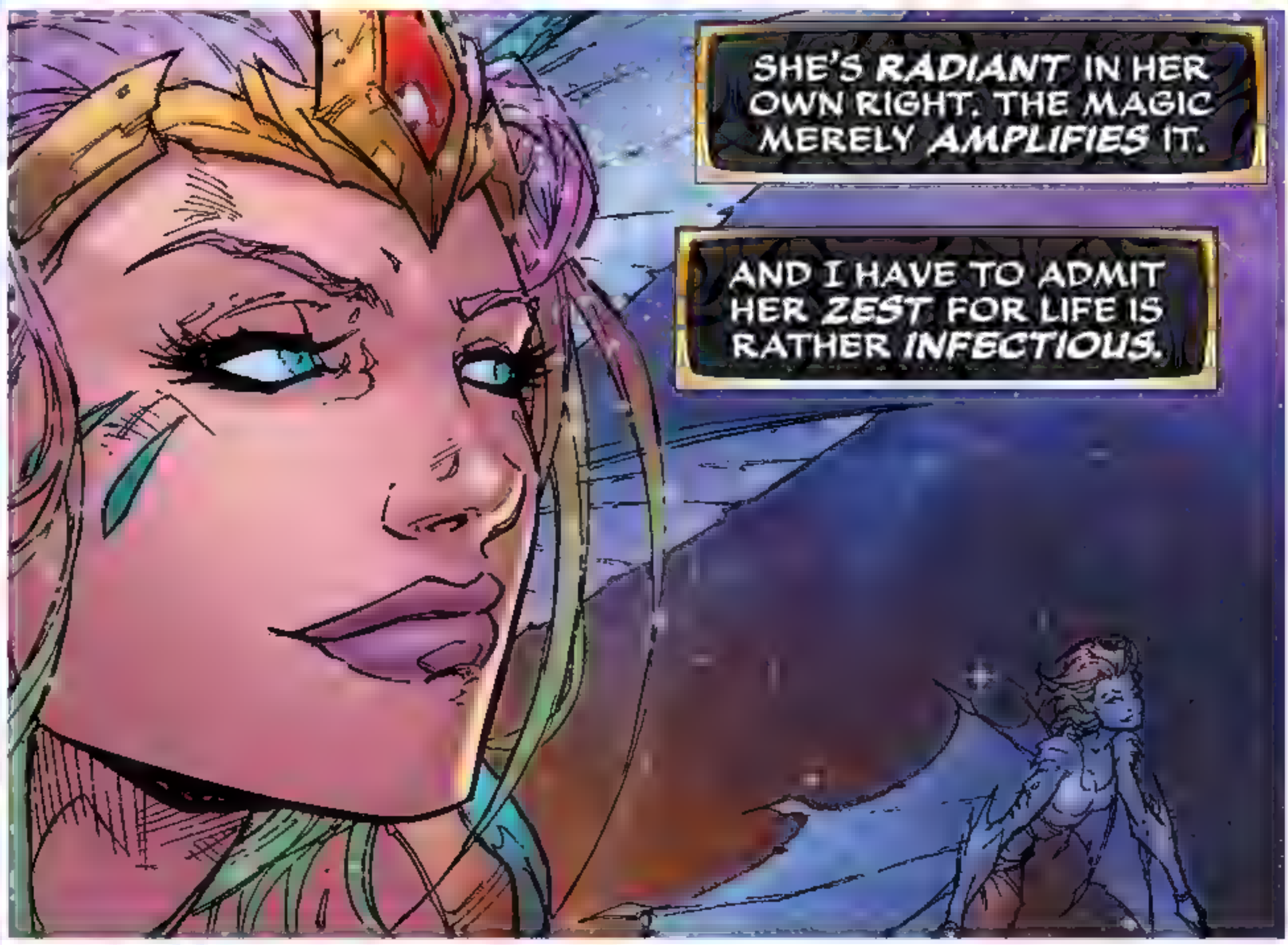


I'VE LIVED FOR
THOUSANDS OF
YEARS. SEEN MAGIC
COME AND GO.

BUT SOMETHING
ABOUT VANYSS
IS DIFFERENT.



THE ENERGY
INSIDE HER-- IT'S
NOT JUST THE
MAGIC. THERE'S
MORE TO IT.



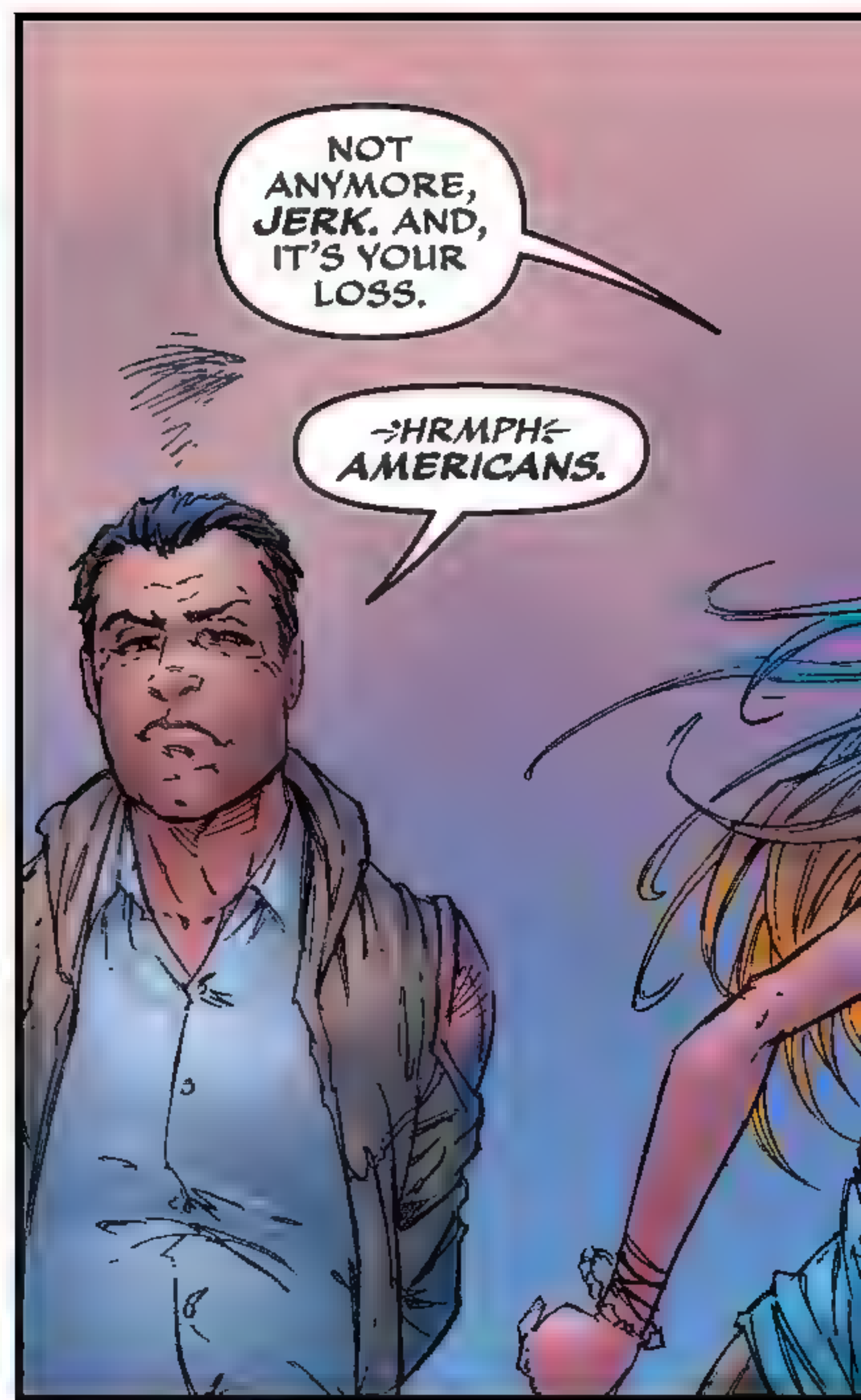
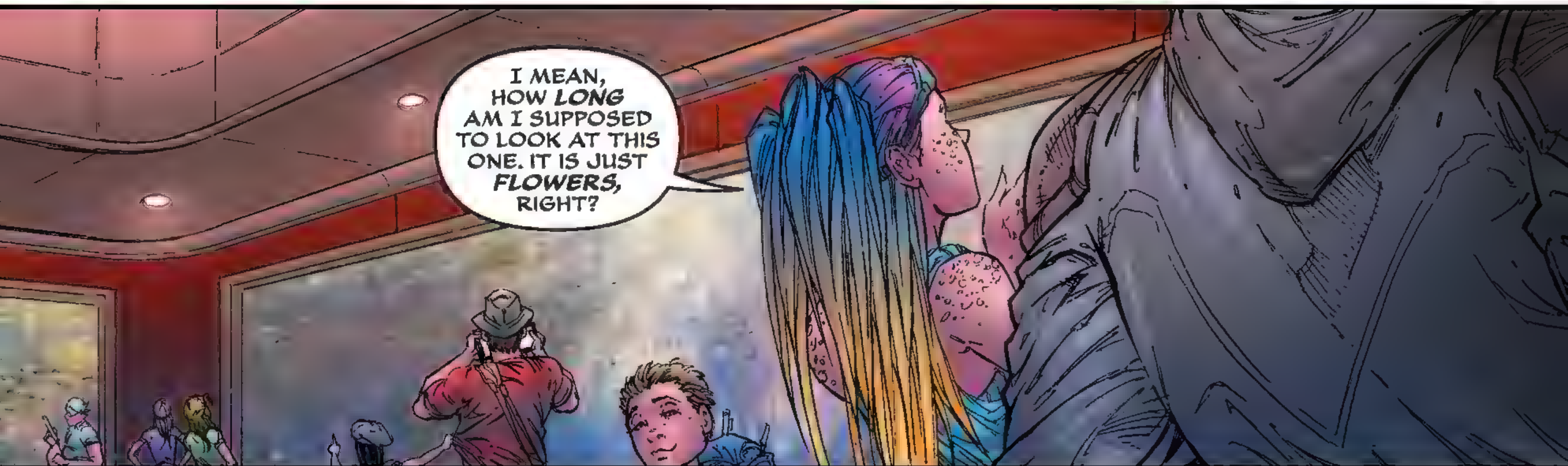
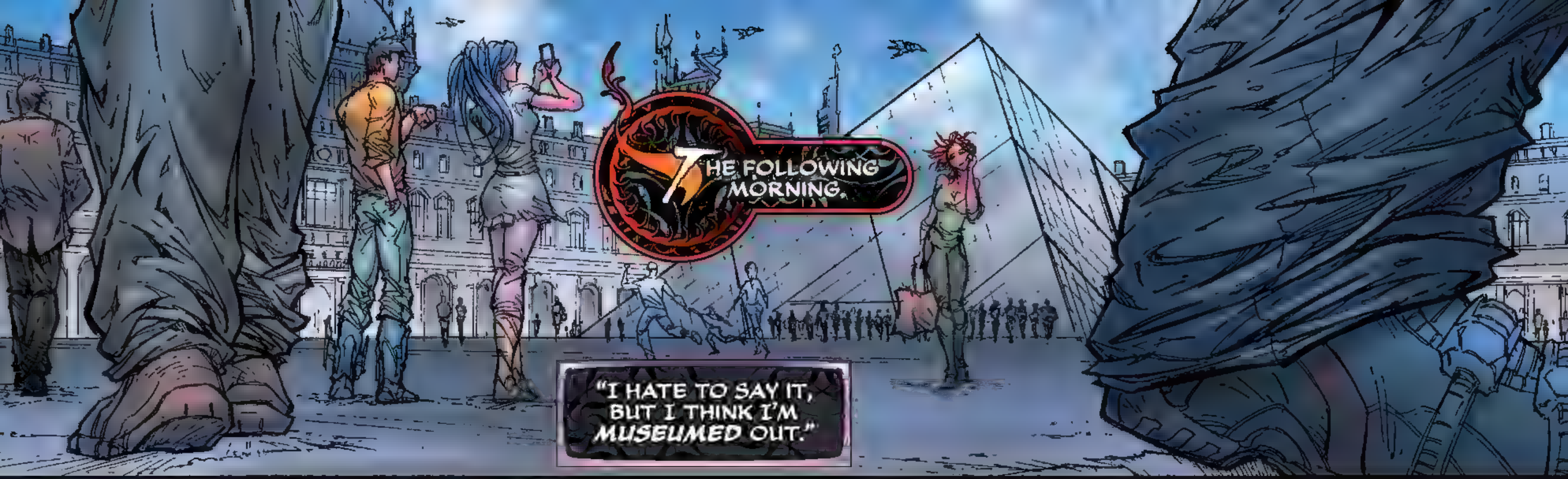
SHE'S RADIANT IN HER
OWN RIGHT. THE MAGIC
MERELY AMPLIFIES IT.

AND I HAVE TO ADMIT
HER ZEST FOR LIFE IS
RATHER INFECTIOUS.



IS THIS
WHAT YOU HAD
IN MIND?

YES!
LET IT SHINE,
GRACE!



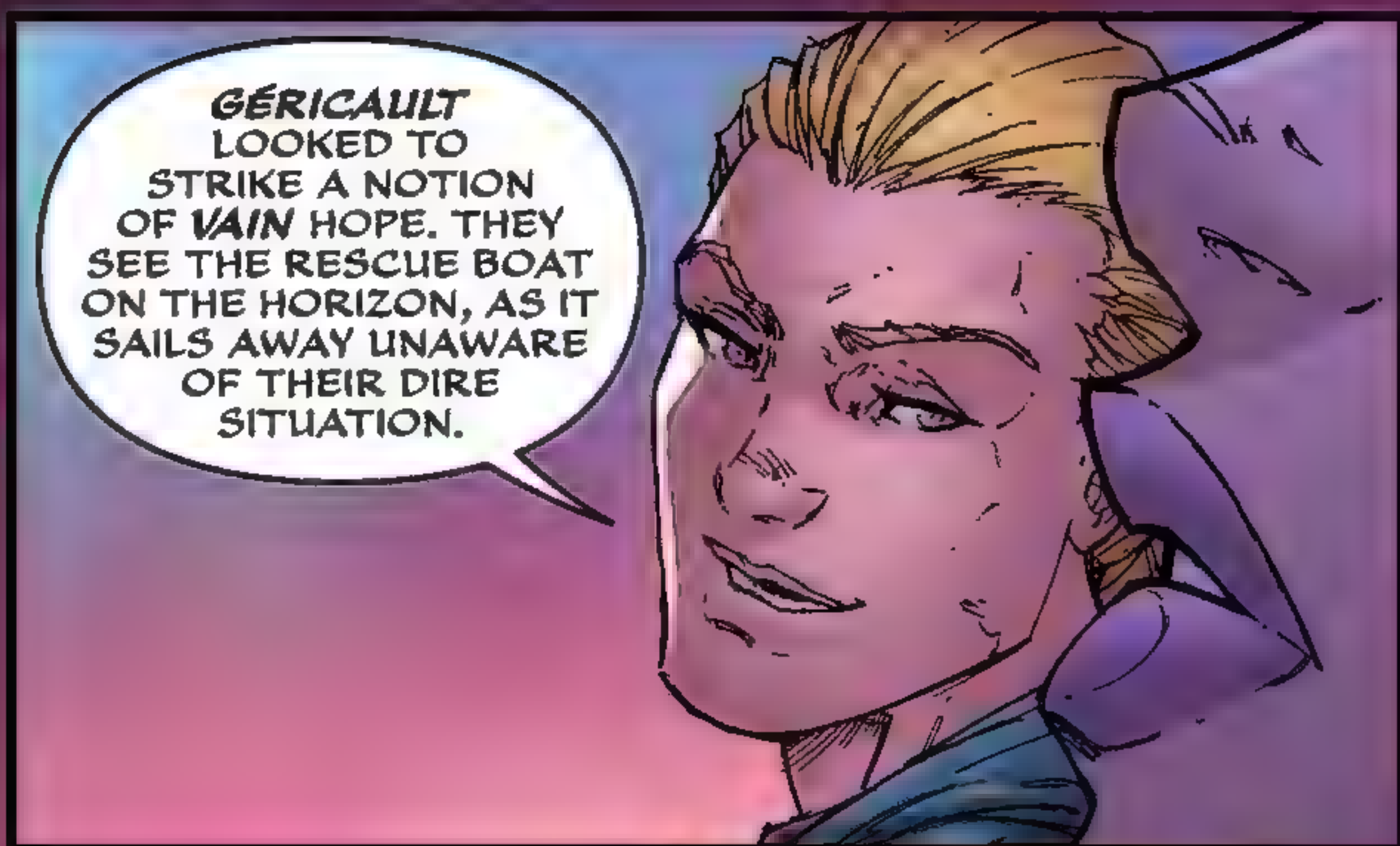
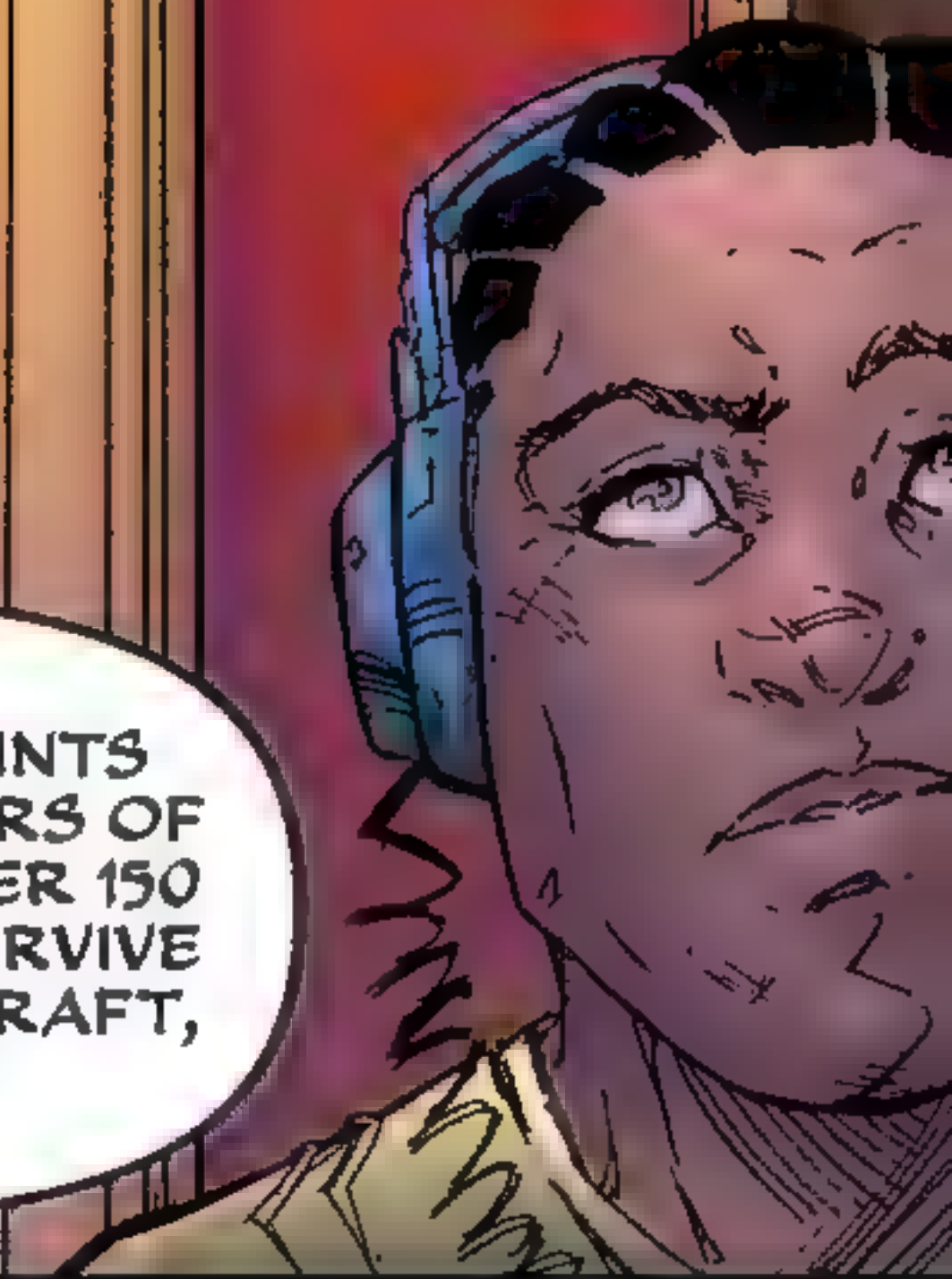


WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THIS ONE?

IT'S CALLED THE RAFT OF THE MEDUSA. PAINTED BY THÉODORE GÉRICAULT IN THE 19TH CENTURY DURING THE ROMANTICISM PERIOD.

ROMANTICISM? LOOKS *DEPRESSING* IF YOU ASK ME. BUNCH OF POOR BASTARDS SHIPWRECKED OUT AT SEA.

IT'S BASED ON ACTUAL ACCOUNTS FROM TWO SURVIVORS OF THE SHIPWRECK. OVER 150 PEOPLE TRIED TO SURVIVE ON THE MAKESHIFT RAFT, BUT ONLY TEN MADE IT.

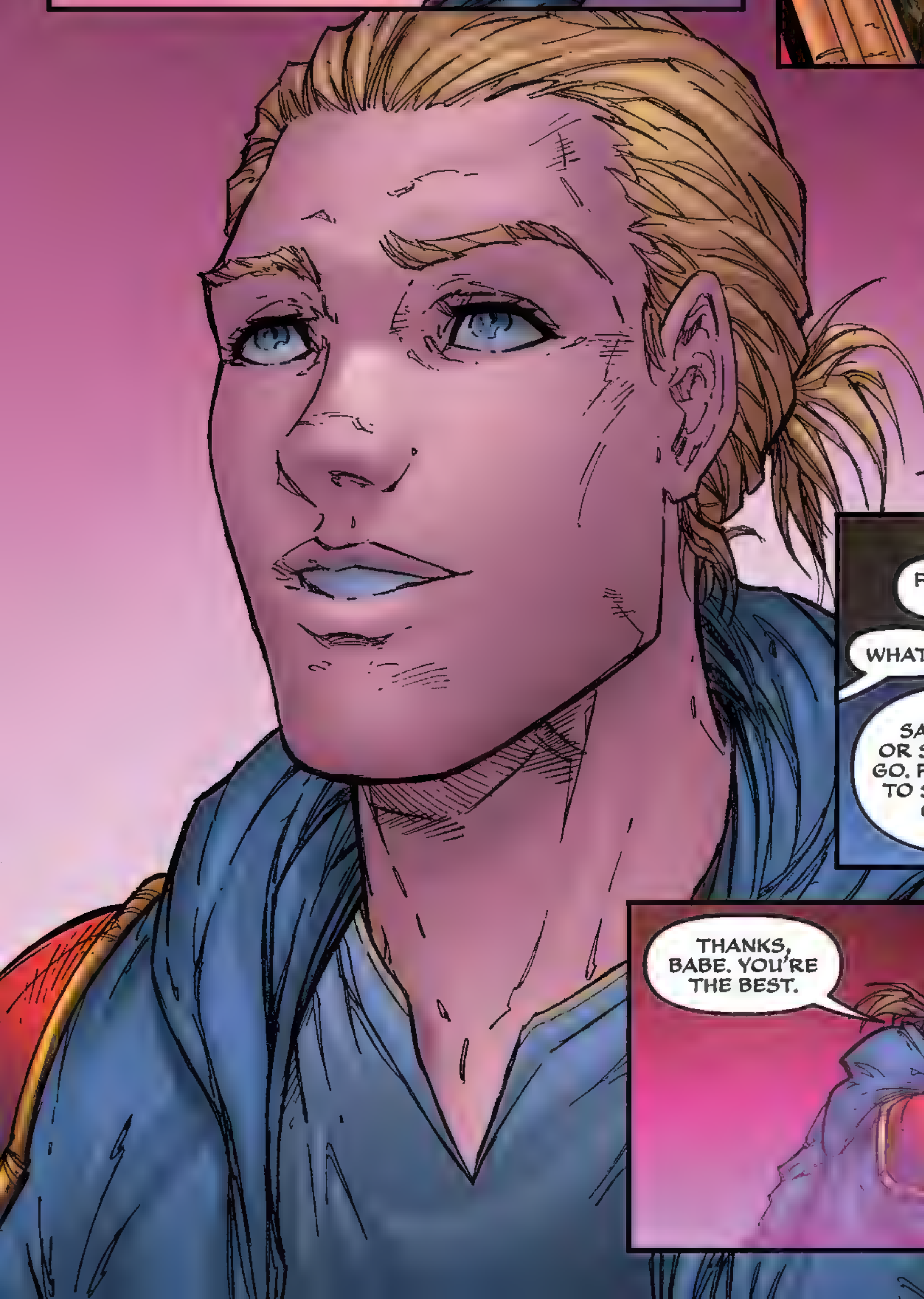


GÉRICAULT LOOKED TO STRIKE A NOTION OF *VAIN* HOPE. THEY SEE THE RESCUE BOAT ON THE HORIZON, AS IT SAILS AWAY UNAWARE OF THEIR DIRE SITUATION.



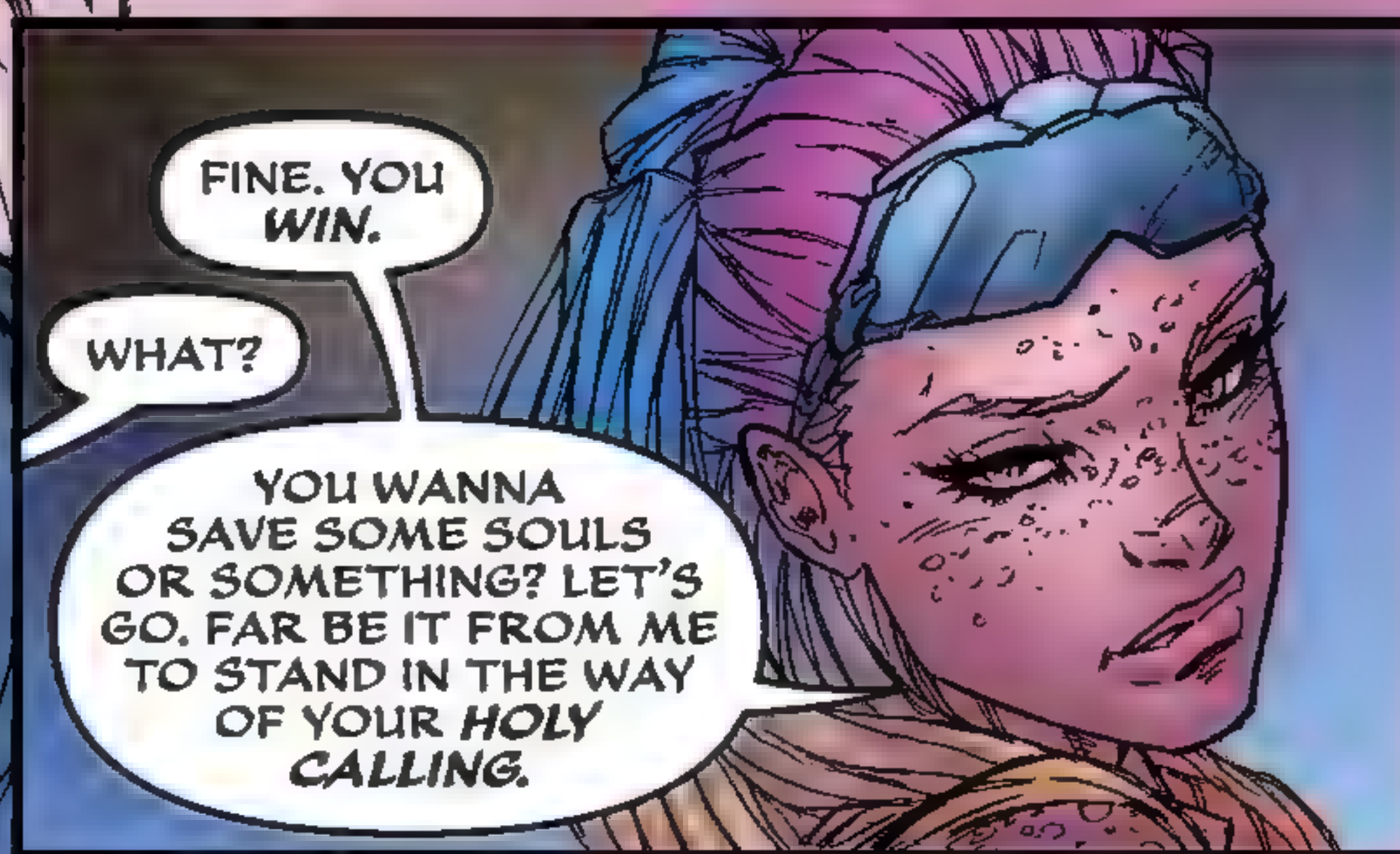
TALK ABOUT A DOWNER. COME ON-- LET'S TRACK DOWN THE MONA LISA. WE'LL JUST FOLLOW THE CROWDS.

MAL?



CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT? LOST AT SEA WITH NO REAL CHANCE OF SURVIVAL. *CLINGING* TO THAT FLEETING SENSE OF HOPE BECAUSE IT'S ALL THEY HAD LEFT.

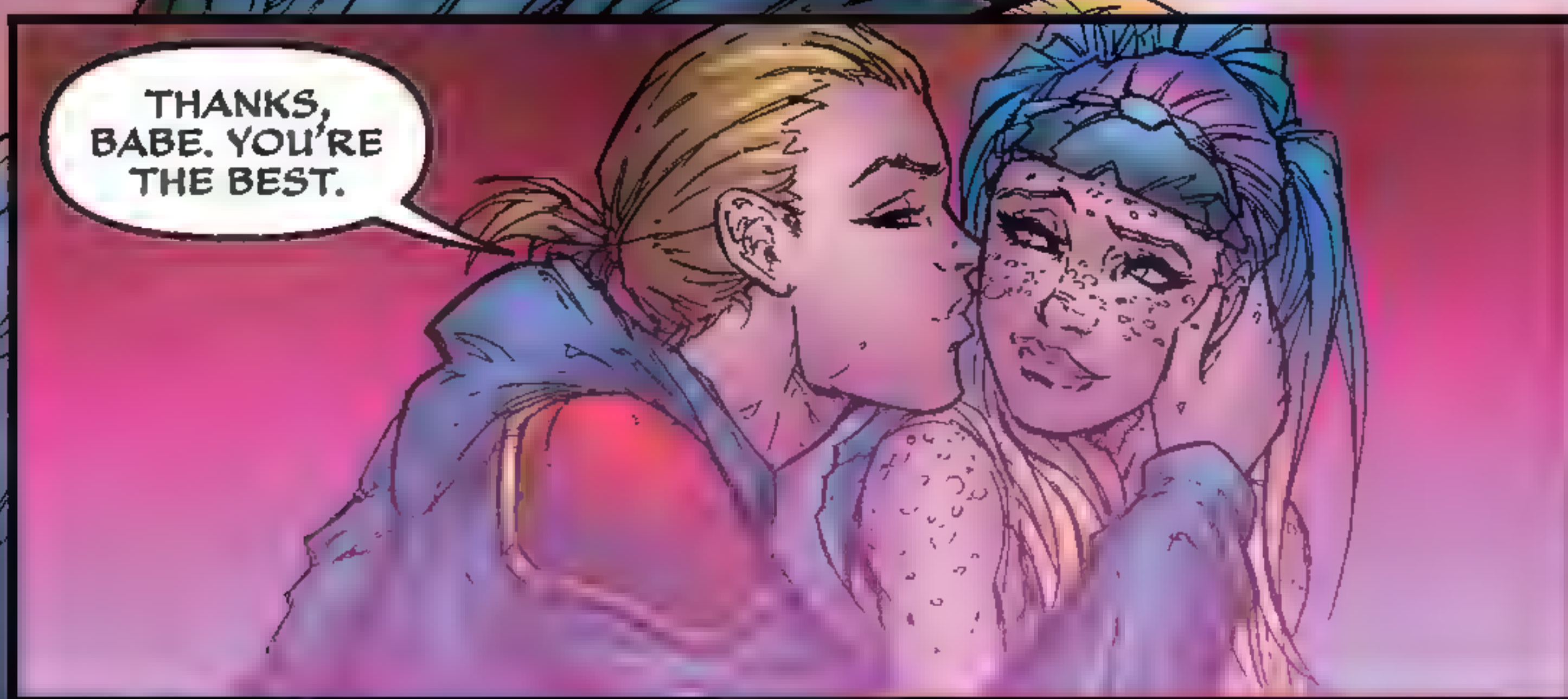
JUST WAITING FOR A SIGN.



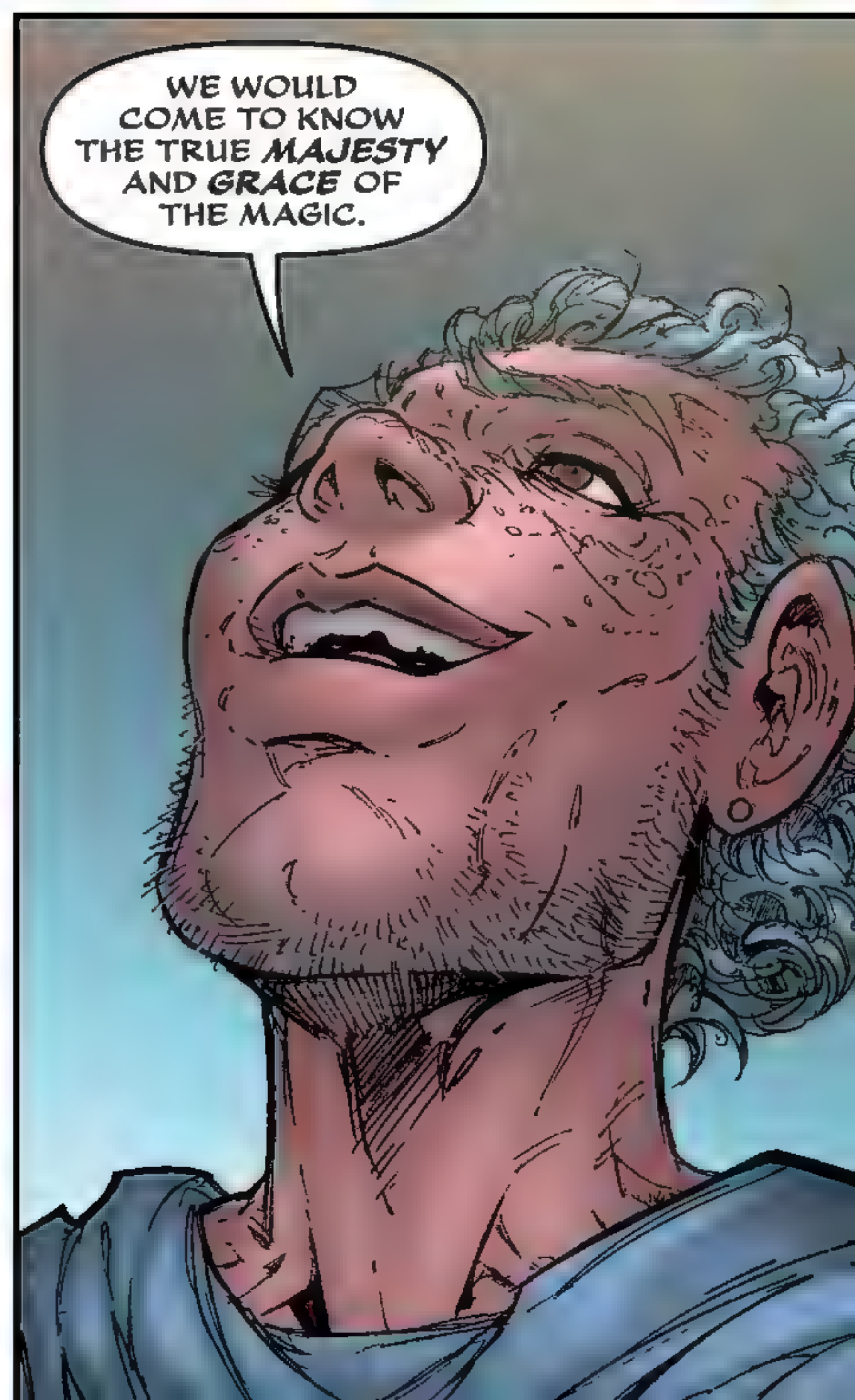
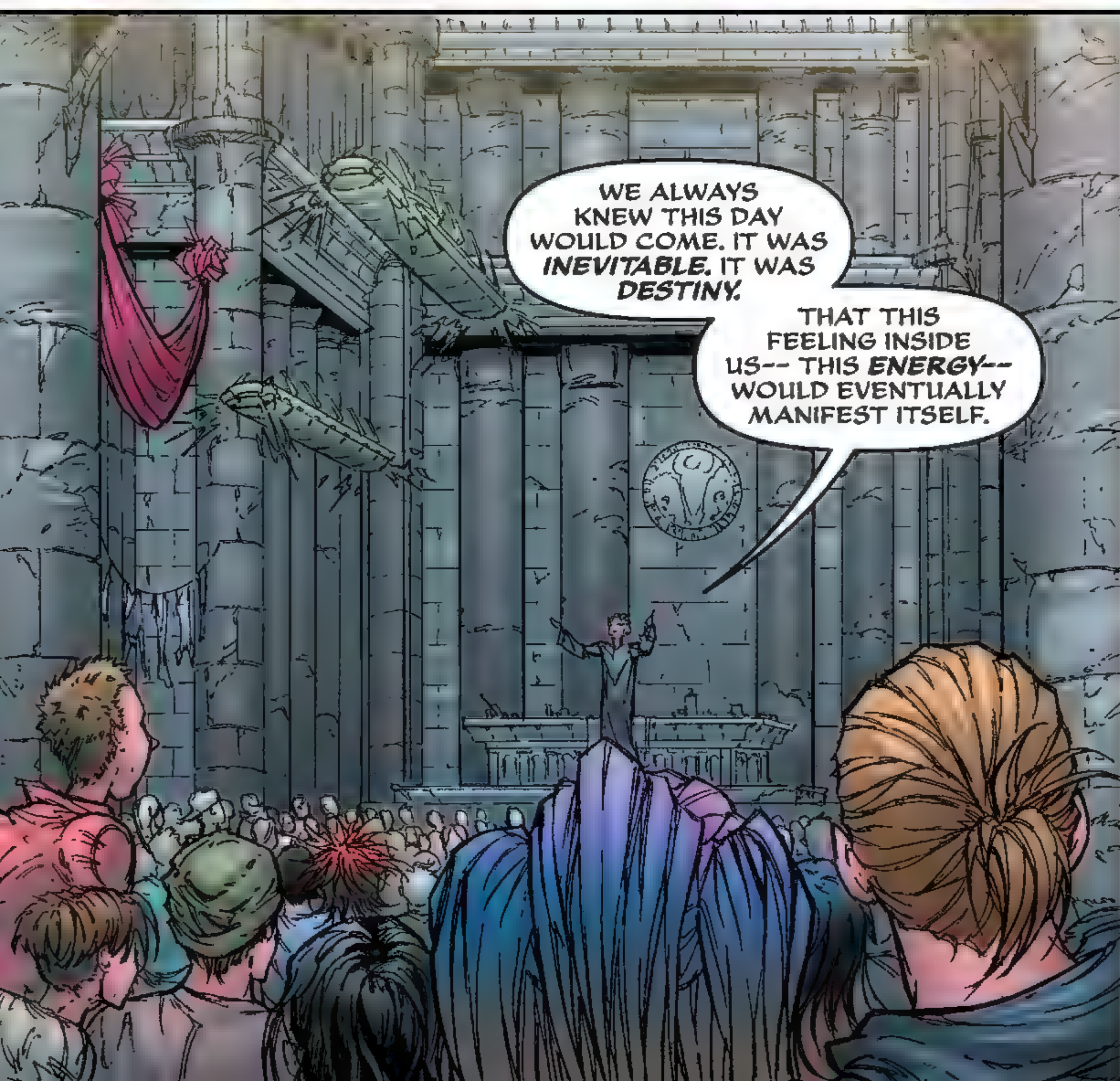
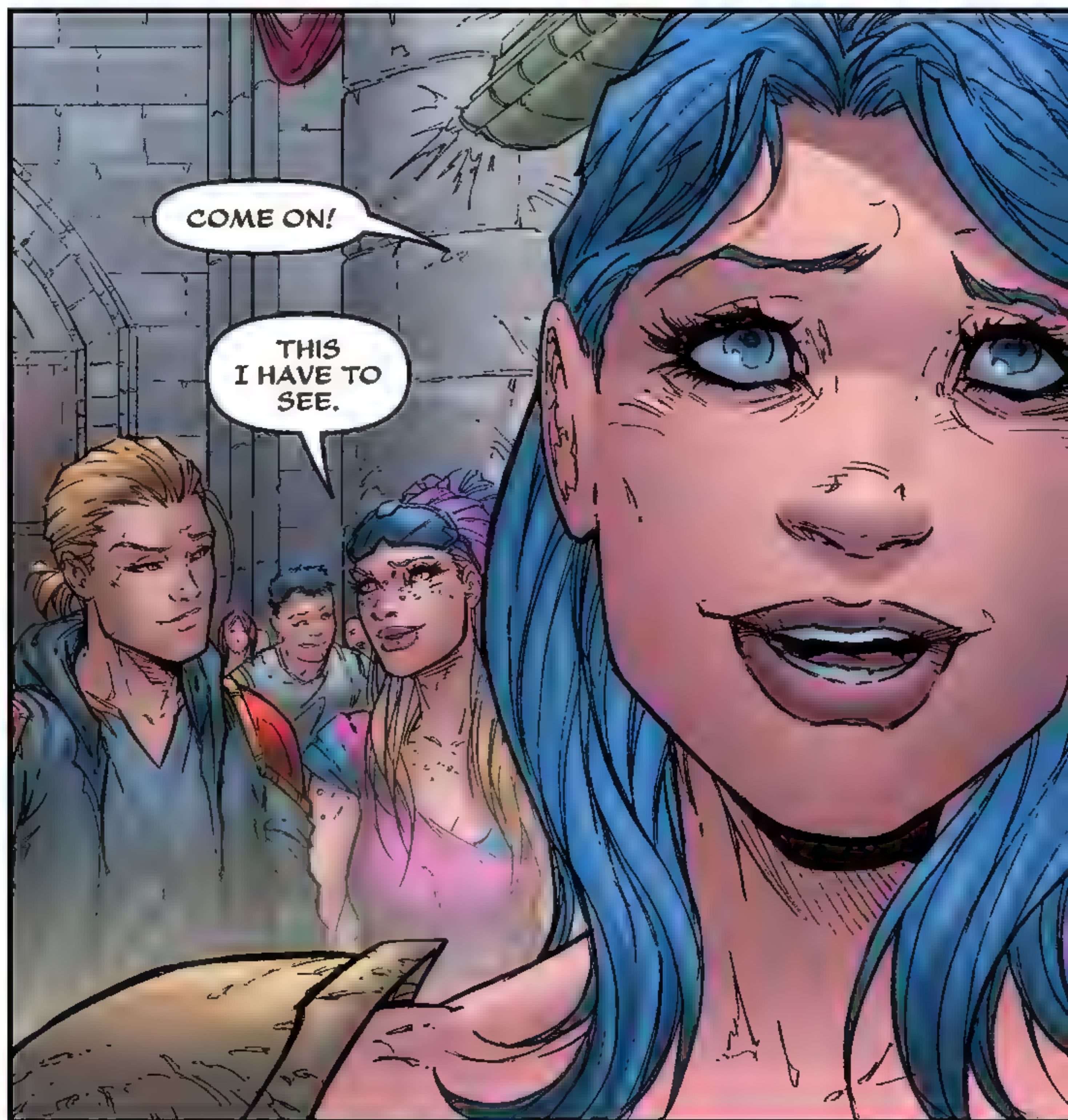
FINE. YOU WIN.

WHAT?

YOU WANNA SAVE SOME SOULS OR SOMETHING? LET'S GO. FAR BE IT FROM ME TO STAND IN THE WAY OF YOUR *HOLY* CALLING.



THANKS, BABE. YOU'RE THE BEST.





BEHOLD!

OUR
VERY OWN
ANGEL!



j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

10
FEB
10

#4

COVER A

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNERS SOULFIRE





j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

10
EPR
10

#4

COVER B

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE





WRITTEN BY KRUL • BY KEN MARION • ART BY ERICK ARCINIEGA • COVER BY JOSH REED

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#4

COVER C





j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

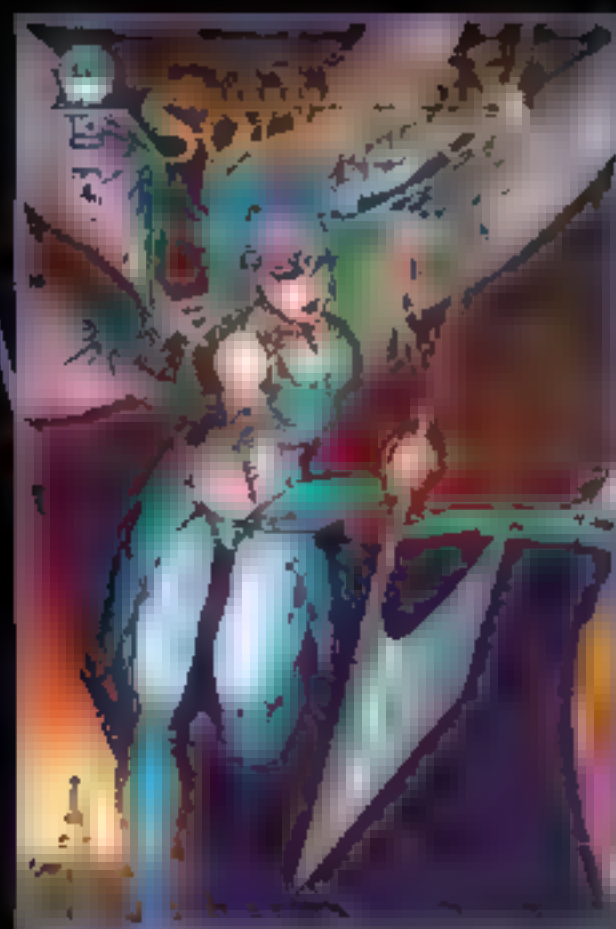
10
FEB
10

#4

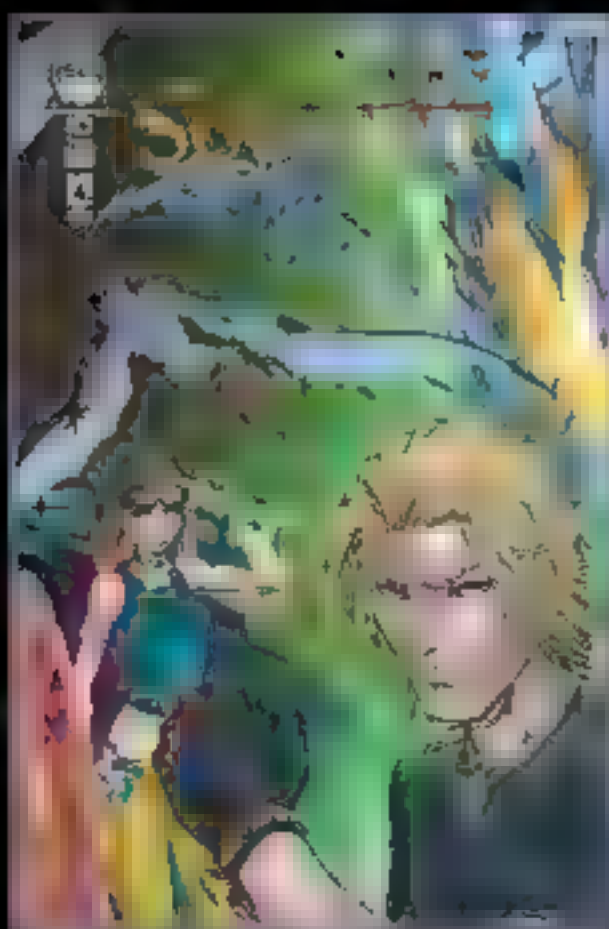
COVER D

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

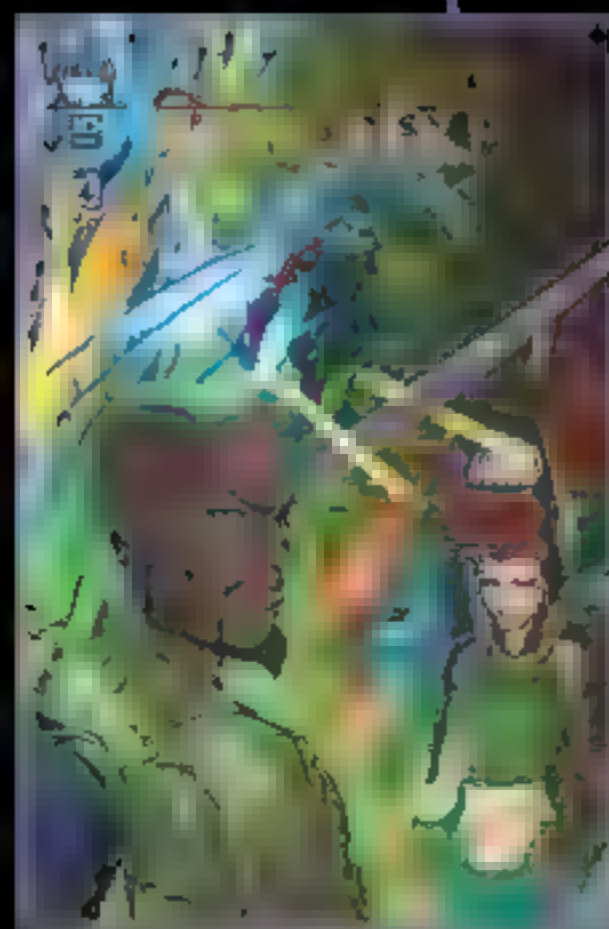




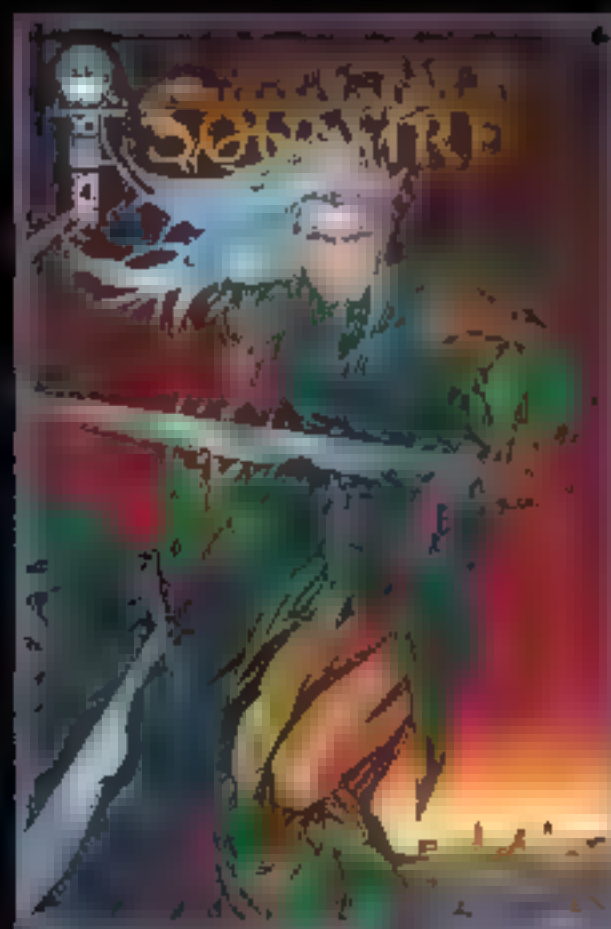
DIRECT EDITION
BY - V KEN MARION
& KYLE RITTER



DIRECT EDITION
BY - V KEN MARION
& KYLE RITTER



DIRECT EDITION
BY - V KEN MARION
& KYLE RITTER



DIRECT EDITION
BY - V KEN MARION
& KYLE RITTER

J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA,
KYLE RITTER

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

soulfire created by michael turner

"Soul Searching"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

RAISER CONTINUED HIS FATAL SACRIFICES OF MAGICAL DRINGS TO THE IMPRISONED COLE, REVEALING HIS BRUTAL NEW APPROACH TO SEIZING POWER AT ANY COST. MEANWHILE, PJ AND HIS NEW ACQUAINTANCE, ASORI, ARE AMBUSHED BY A PACK OF ROBOTIC BEASTS BUT RESCUED BY BENOIST, LEAVING THEM QUESTIONING THE POWERFUL TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS THAT CREATED SUCH CREATURES. AND INSIDE THE TEMPLE OF GABRIEL'S VOICE, MALIKAI AND SONIA ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR LATEST "INSPIRATION," A MAN SEEMINGLY BESTOWED WITH THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL...

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issue 4

APRIL 2014. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite 111, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and its logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

For information regarding the CPSLA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # RICH - 523328

FOR ASPEN:
Founder: MICHAEL TURNER
Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD
Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO
Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ
Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED, ANDREA SHEA
Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS
Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL
AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP
Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

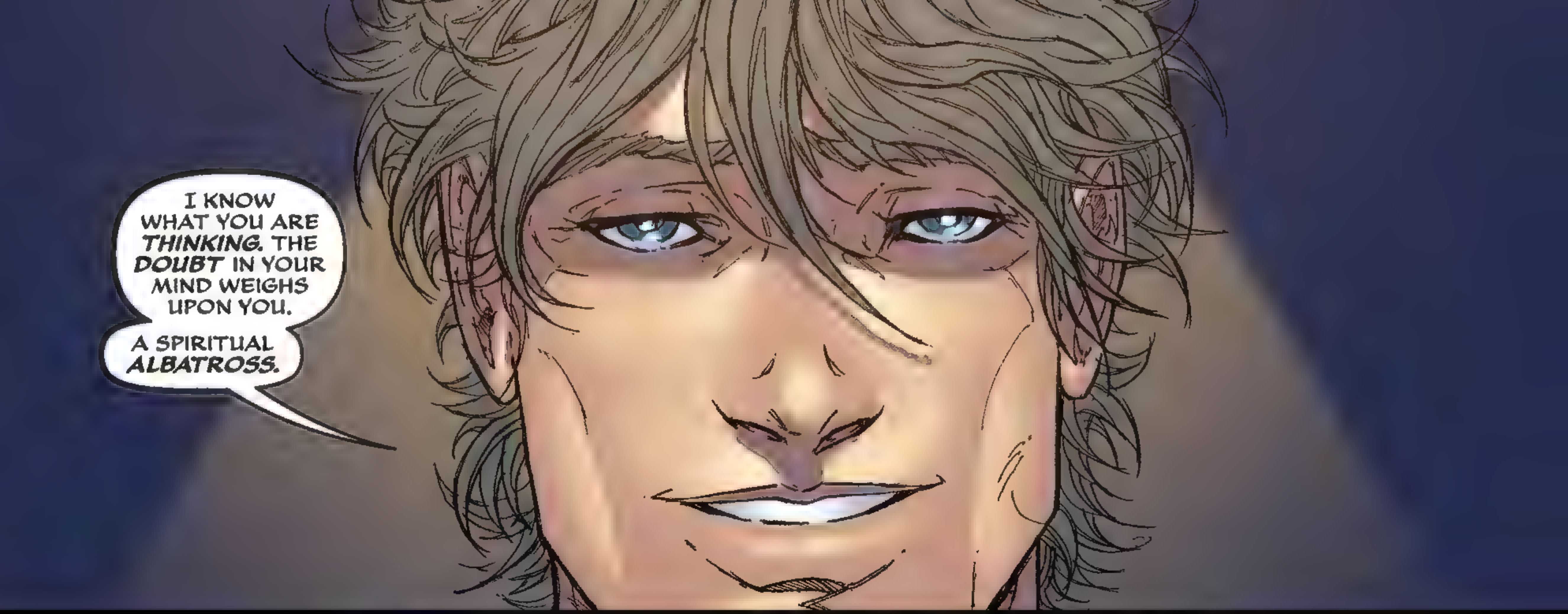
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

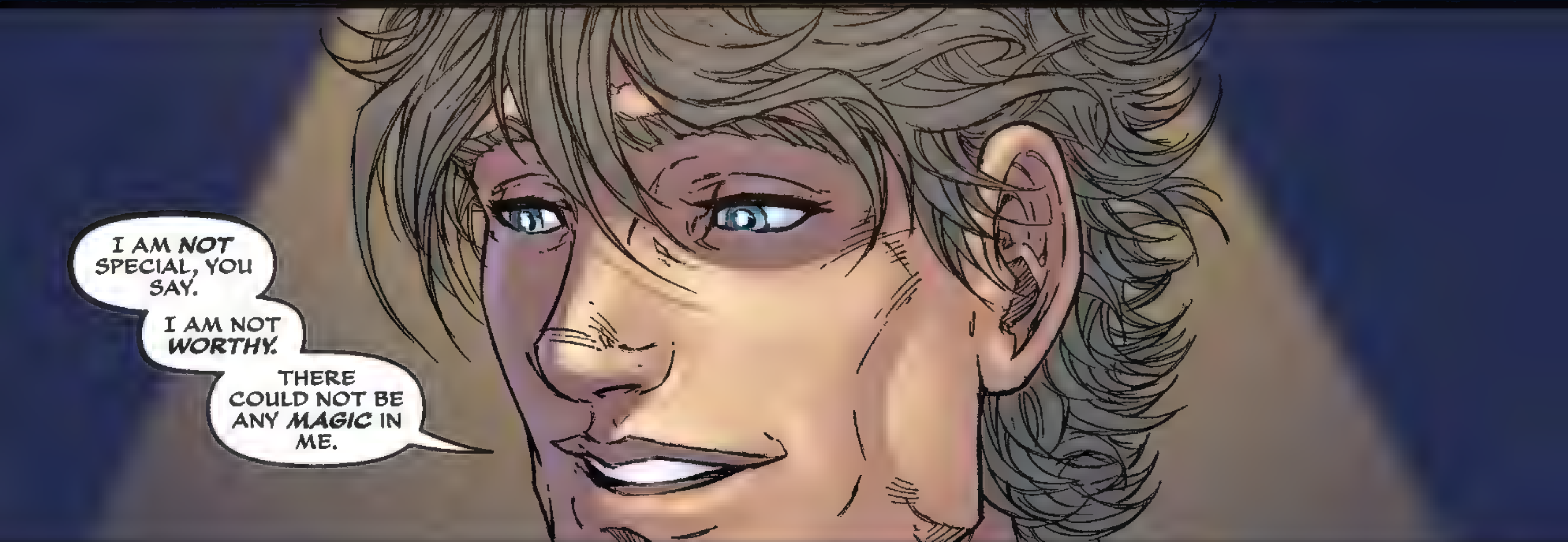
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@CFLOYSTUDIO.COM]



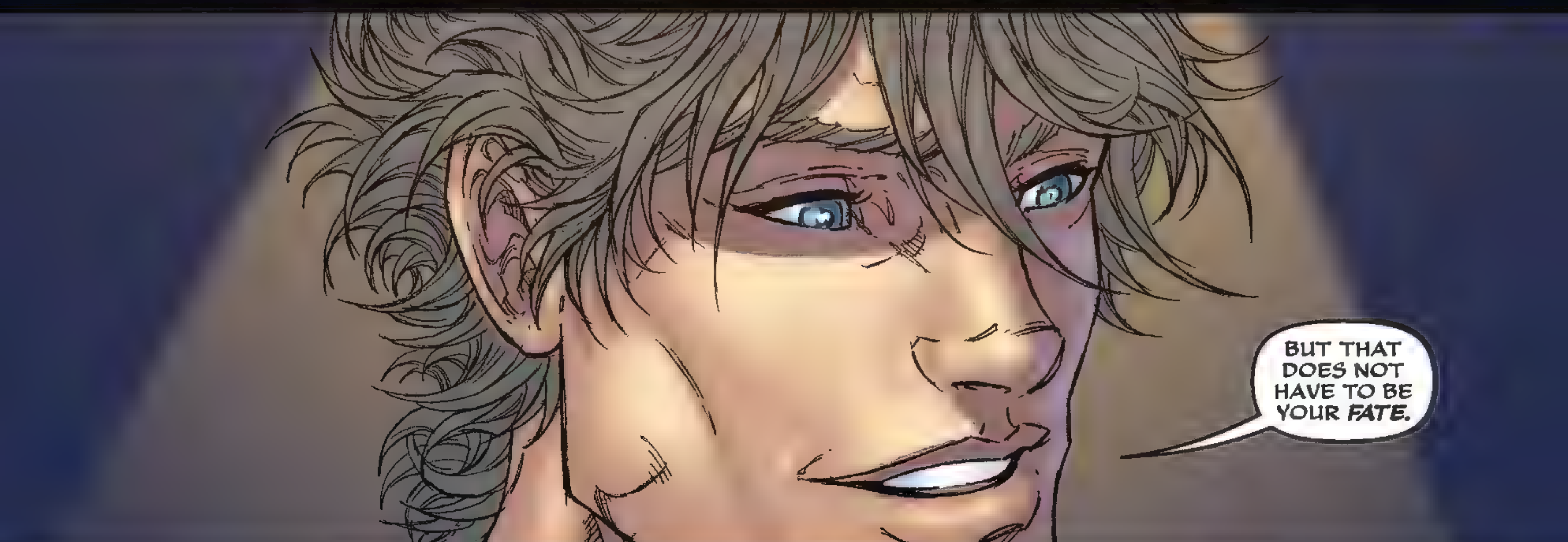
I KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
THINKING. THE
DOUBT IN YOUR
MIND WEIGHS
UPON YOU.
A SPIRITUAL
ALBATROSS.



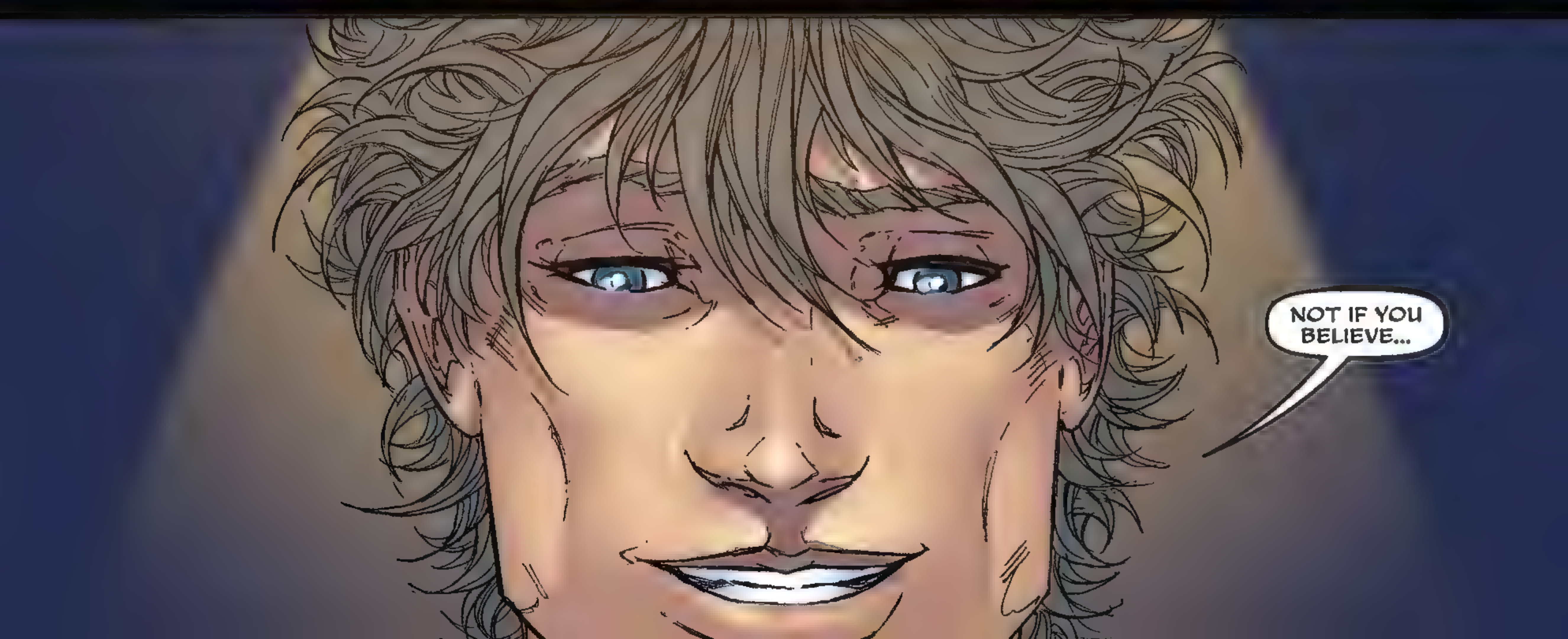
I AM **NOT**
SPECIAL, YOU
SAY.

I AM **NOT**
WORTHY.

THERE
COULD NOT BE
ANY **MAGIC** IN
ME.



BUT THAT
DOES NOT
HAVE TO BE
YOUR **FATE**.



NOT IF YOU
BELIEVE...



...IN ME.

BELIEVE
IN ME?
WHATEVER.

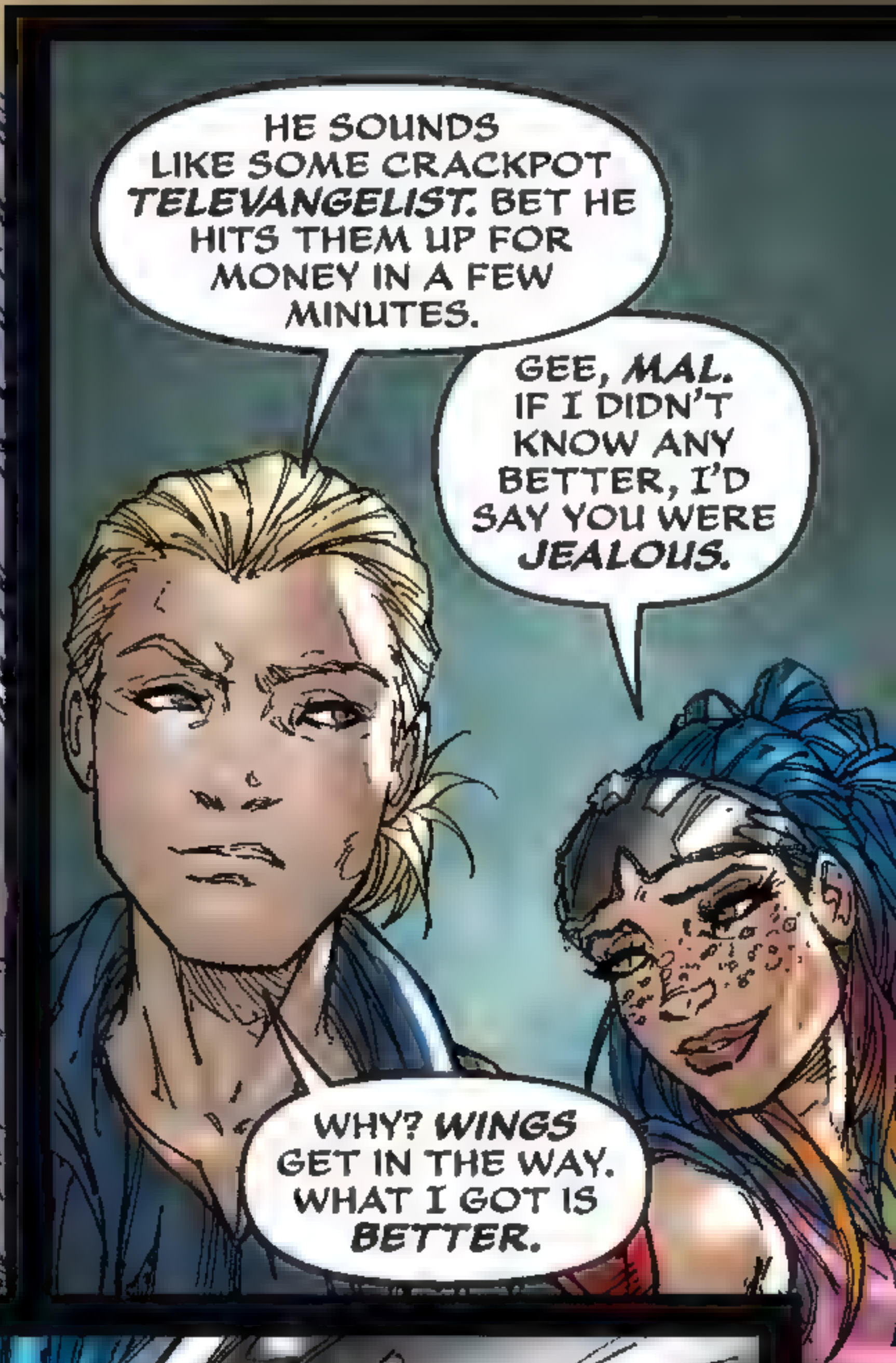


WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

I AM FROM **EVERYWHERE**. MY SPIRIT IS CONNECTED TO **EVERYTHING**. YOU. THIS TEMPLE. THIS PLANET. THIS UNIVERSE. IT ALL FLOWS THROUGH ME.

YOUR **FEATHERS...** THEY ARE SO SOFT.

IT'S OKAY. **TOUCH THEM** IF YOU LIKE.



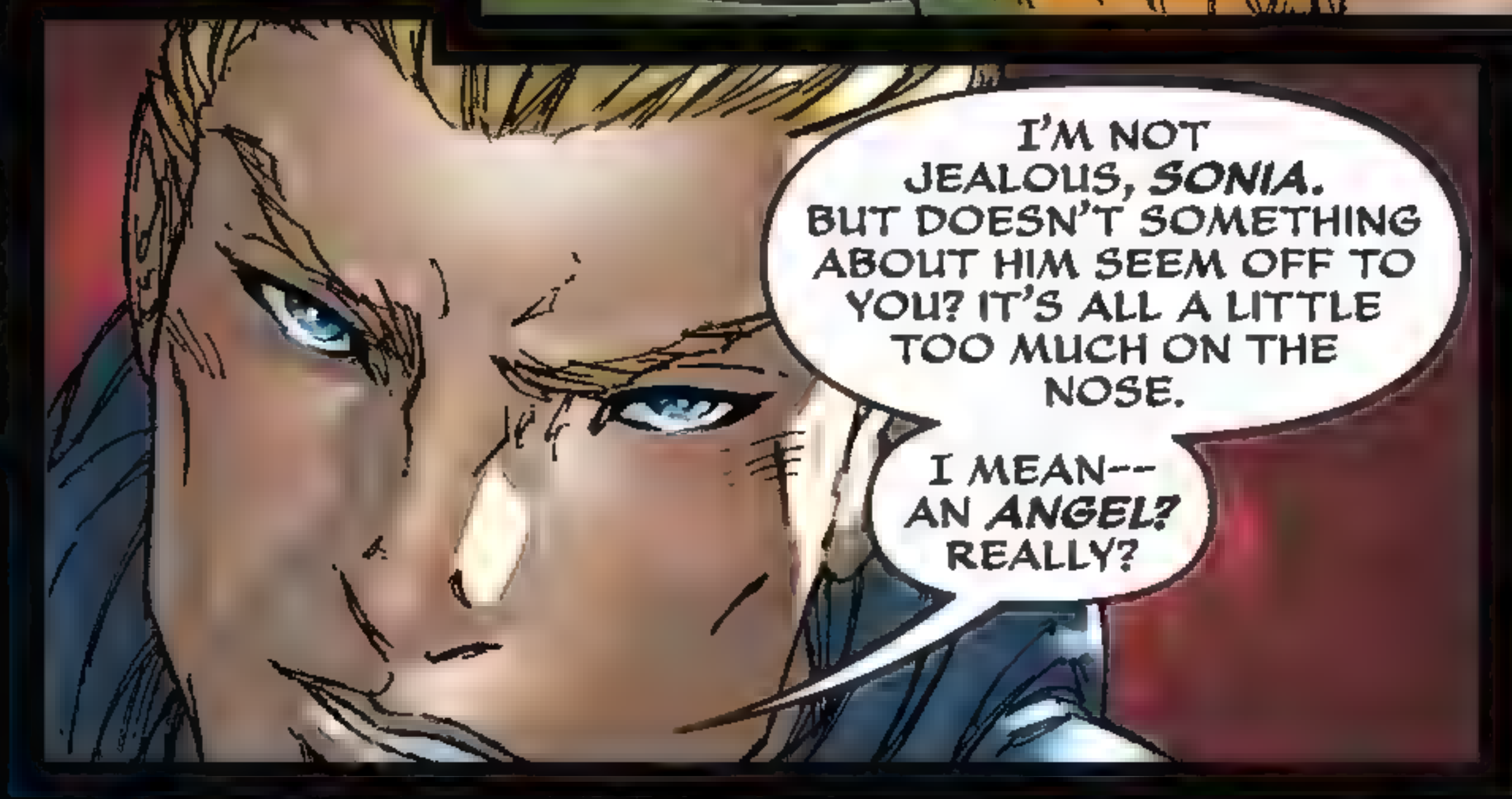
HE SOUNDS LIKE SOME CRACKPOT **TELEVANGELIST**. BET HE HITS THEM UP FOR MONEY IN A FEW MINUTES.

GEE, **MAL**. IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, I'D SAY YOU WERE **JEALOUS**.

WHY? **WINGS** GET IN THE WAY. WHAT I GOT IS **BETTER**.



COME ON. YOU CAME HERE LOOKING TO BE THEIR... WHAT DID YOU CALL IT? **BEACON**. AND YOU FIND THE JOB IS ALREADY TAKEN. **BUZZKILL**.



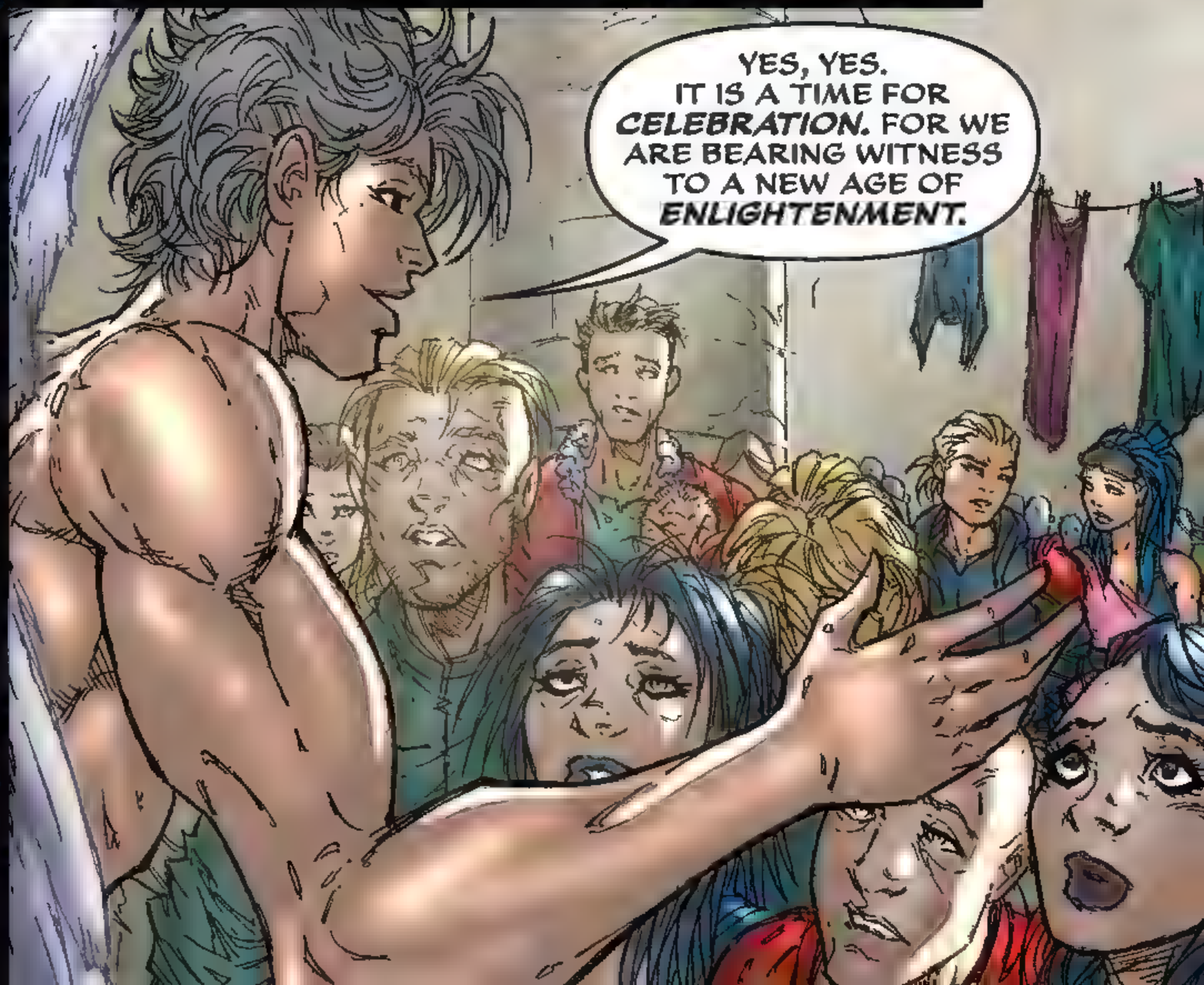
I'M NOT **JEALOUS**, **SONIA**. BUT DOESN'T SOMETHING ABOUT HIM SEEM OFF TO YOU? IT'S ALL A LITTLE TOO MUCH ON THE NOSE.

I MEAN-- AN **ANGEL**? REALLY?

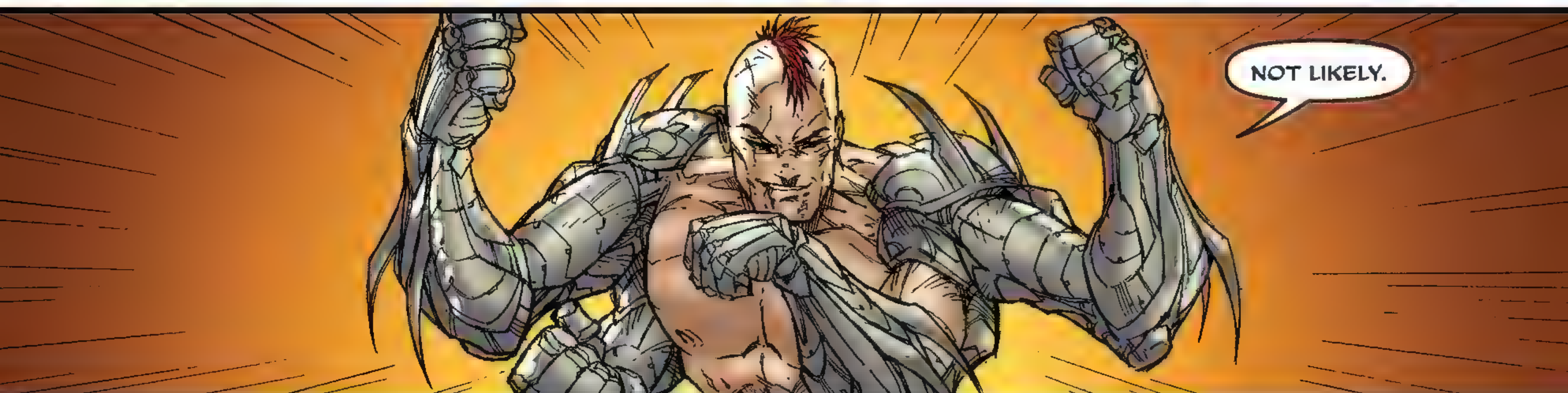
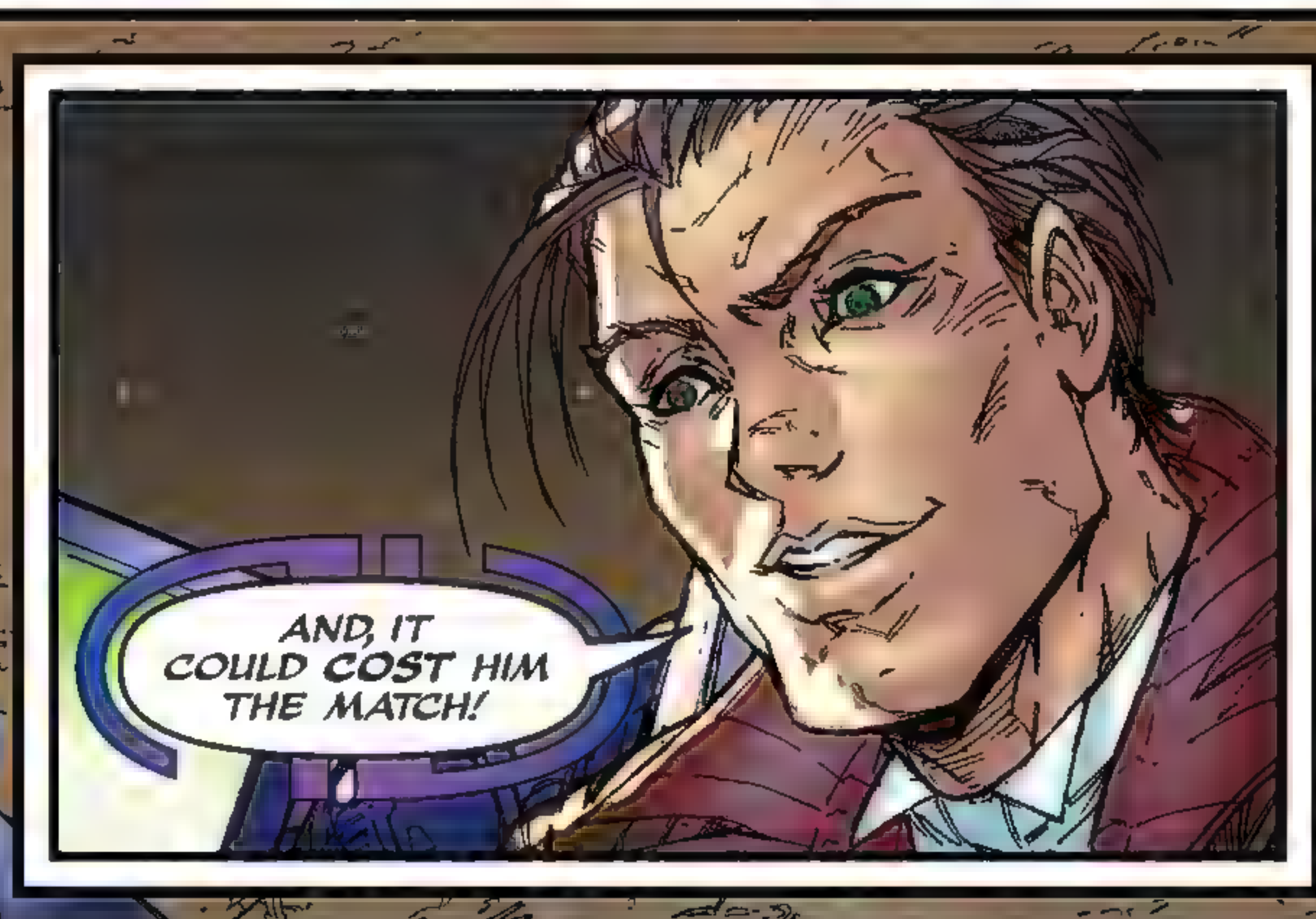
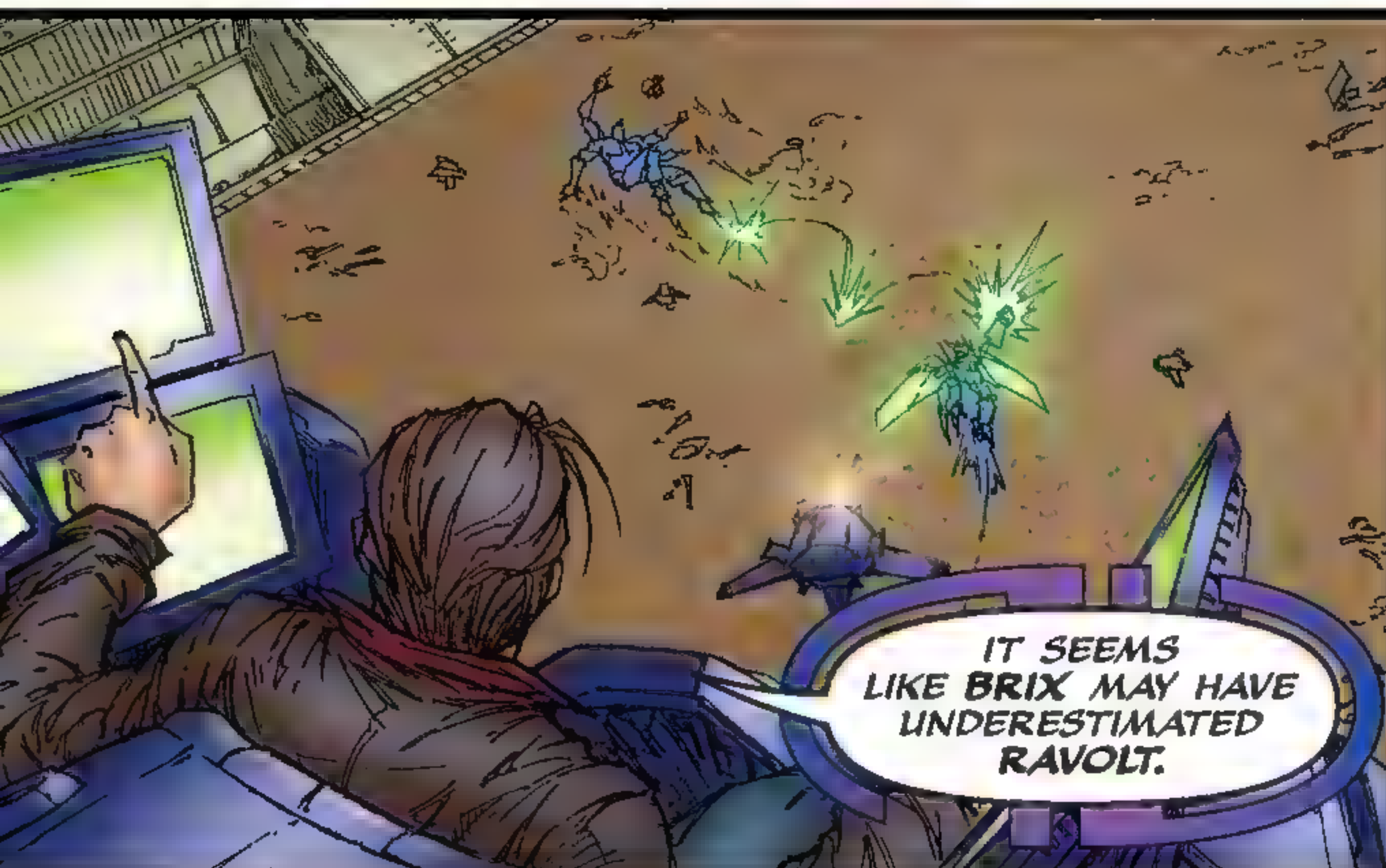
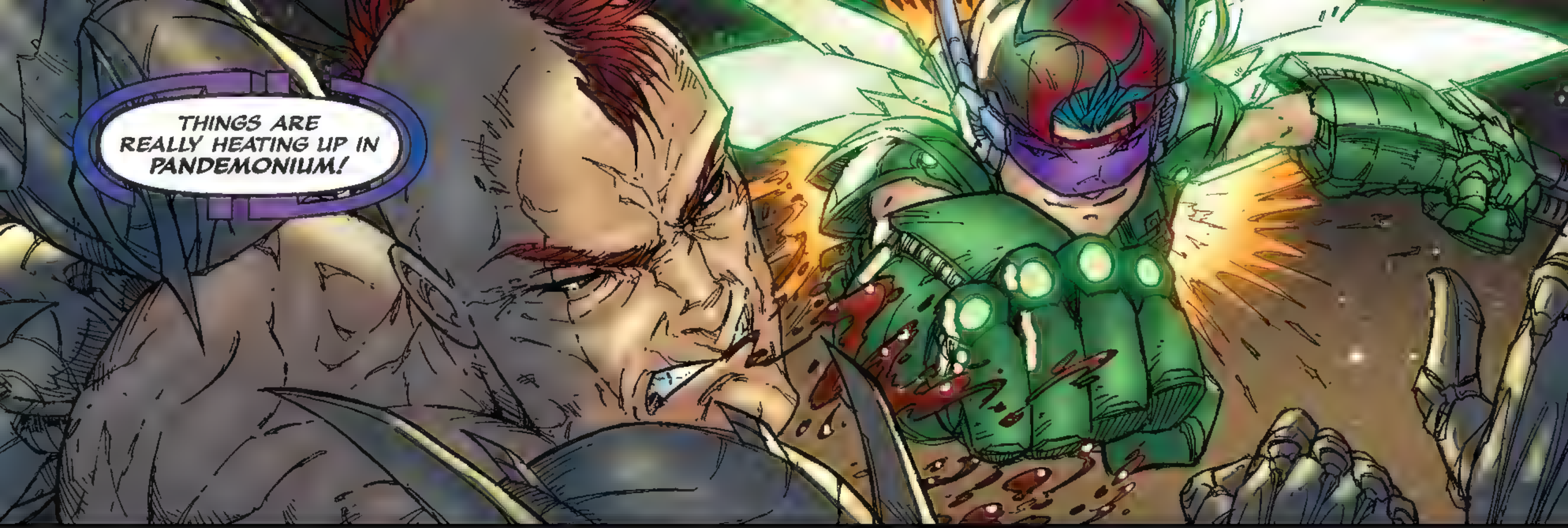


SERIOUS? HAVE YOU LIKE NOT BEEN AROUND YOURSELF FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS? IT'S BEEN THE DEFINITION OF **BIBLICAL**.

YOU'RE **CRAZY**.



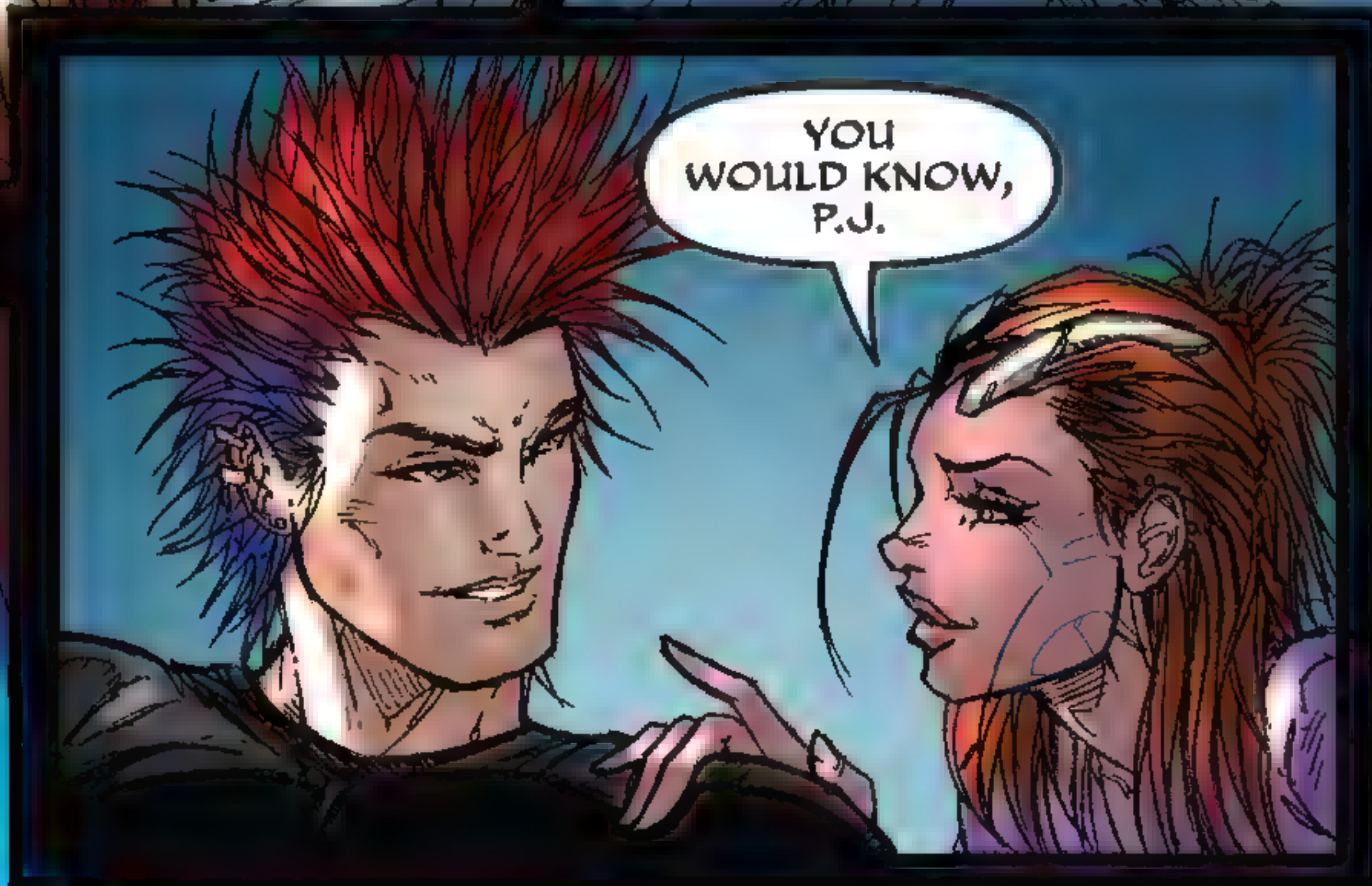
YES, YES. IT IS A TIME FOR **CELEBRATION**. FOR WE ARE BEARING WITNESS TO A NEW AGE OF **ENLIGHTENMENT**.





THAT
BRIX IS ONE
PART ABILITY AND
FOUR-PARTS JUST
PLAIN **BEAST**. HE
LANDS ONE BLOW
AND RAVOLT IS
TOAST.

ISN'T
THAT YOUR
THING, **ALORI**?
TOASTING
PEOPLE?



YOU
WOULD KNOW,
P.J.



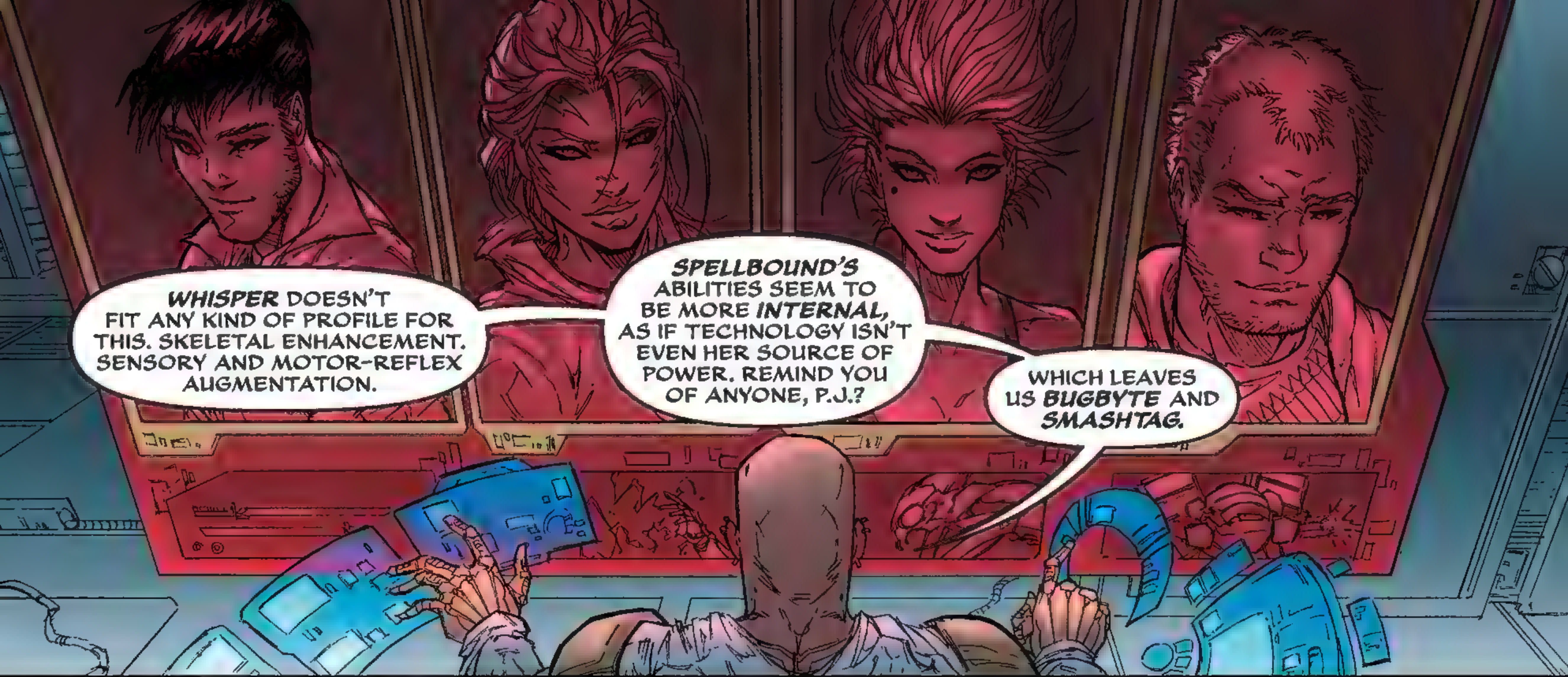
RAVOLT'S DEFINITELY
A TECH-GEEK. HE'S GOT
QUITE AN **ARSENAL** AT
HIS DISPOSAL.

STILL-- HE'S ONLY
ANNOYING BRIX. NOT
DOING ANYTHING TO
BRING HIM DOWN.



HIS DESIGNS
ARE VERY **DIFFERENT**
FROM THOSE THINGS THAT
ATTACKED YOU TWO THE
OTHER NIGHT, P.J.

NO **OVERLAP**
WHATSOEVER.



WHISPER DOESN'T FIT ANY KIND OF PROFILE FOR THIS. SKELETAL ENHANCEMENT. SENSORY AND MOTOR-REFLEX AUGMENTATION.

SPELLBOUND'S ABILITIES SEEM TO BE MORE INTERNAL, AS IF TECHNOLOGY ISN'T EVEN HER SOURCE OF POWER. REMIND YOU OF ANYONE, P.J.?

WHICH LEAVES US BUGBYTE AND SMASHTAG.



AGAIN, NOT SEEING ANY DIRECT CORRELATION IN TERMS OF DESIGN PARAMETERS, BUT THEY COULD HAVE EASILY OUTSOURCED THE DESIGN WORK.



COULDN'T WHOEVER JUST AS EASILY PURCHASED THE TECH ON THE OPEN MARKET?

YOU MEAN-- THERE'S A STORE WHERE YOU CAN BUY THAT KIND OF THING?

P.J., YOU CAN BUY ANYTHING THESE DAYS.



SHE'S RIGHT. THE BRIGHTEST MINDS THINK THIS STUFF UP, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY IT'S ALL AVAILABLE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

YOU CAN'T BUY SMARTS, BUT YOU CAN SURE AS HELL BUY WHAT SMART PEOPLE CAN CREATE.

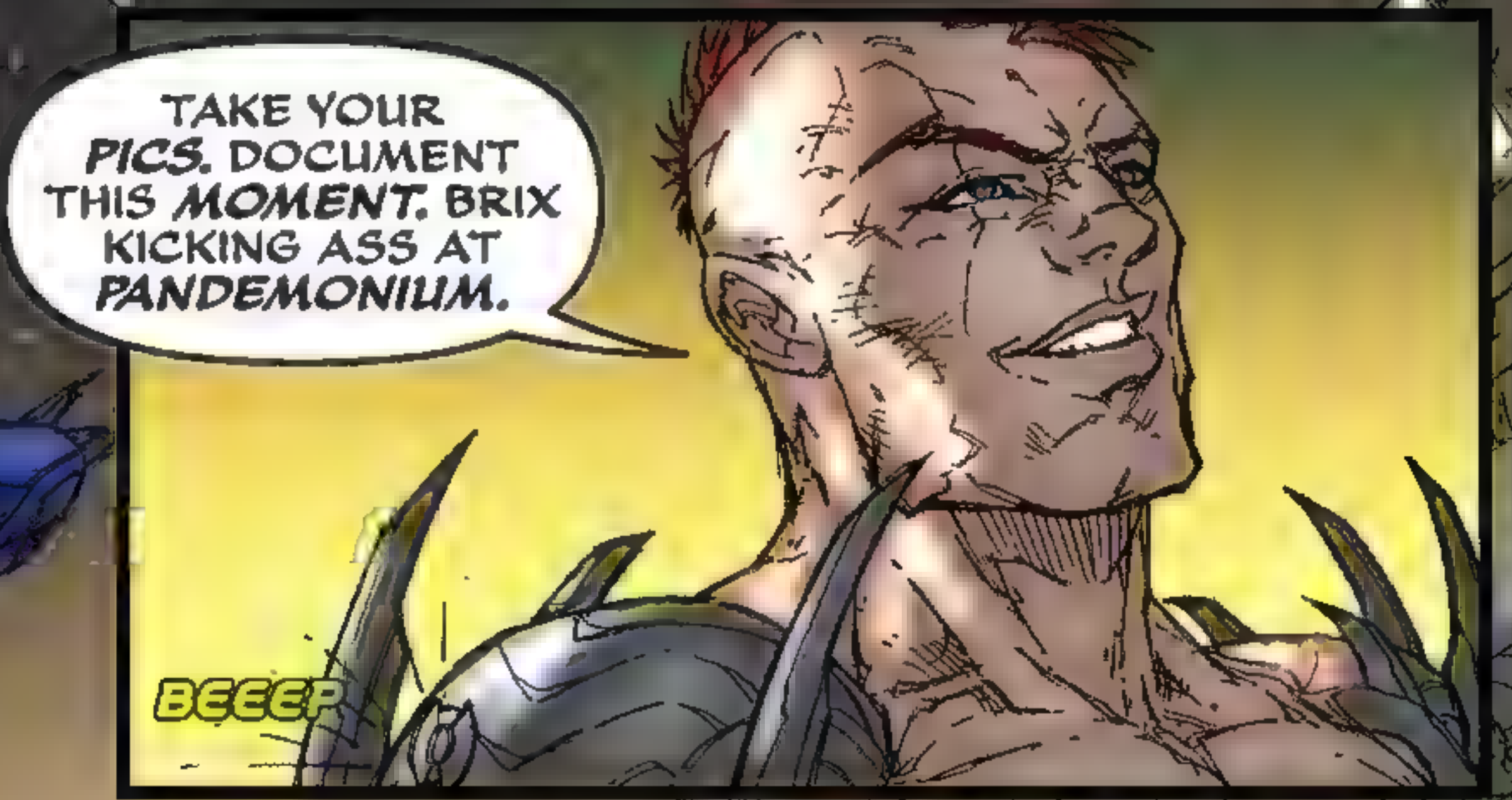
OOOOH, A DEVASTATING BLOW!

B--LOOK!



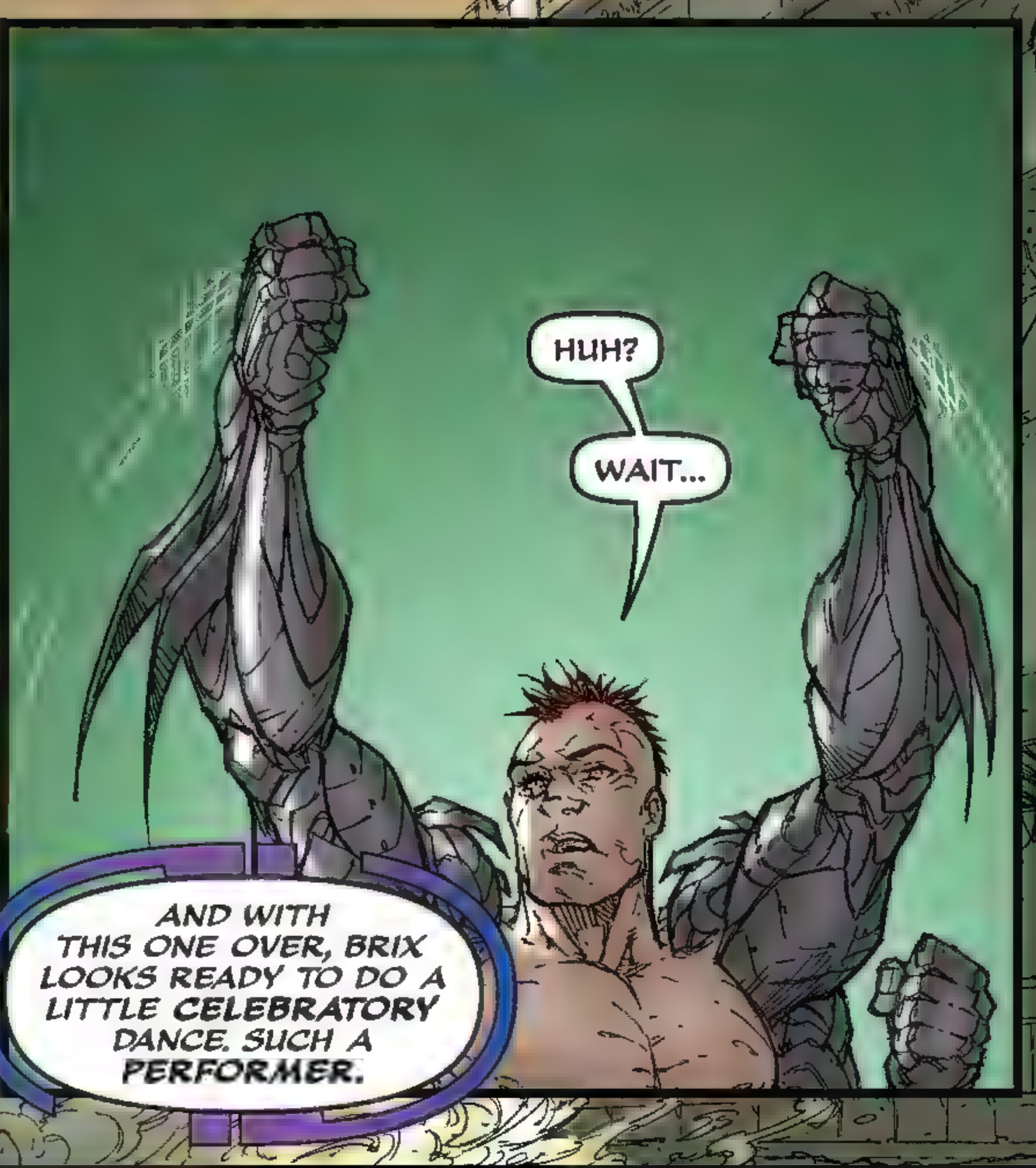
SHOW'S
OVER, SON.

AND
DOWN GOES
RAVOLT!



TAKE YOUR
PICS. DOCUMENT
THIS MOMENT. BRIX
KICKING ASS AT
PANDEMONIUM.

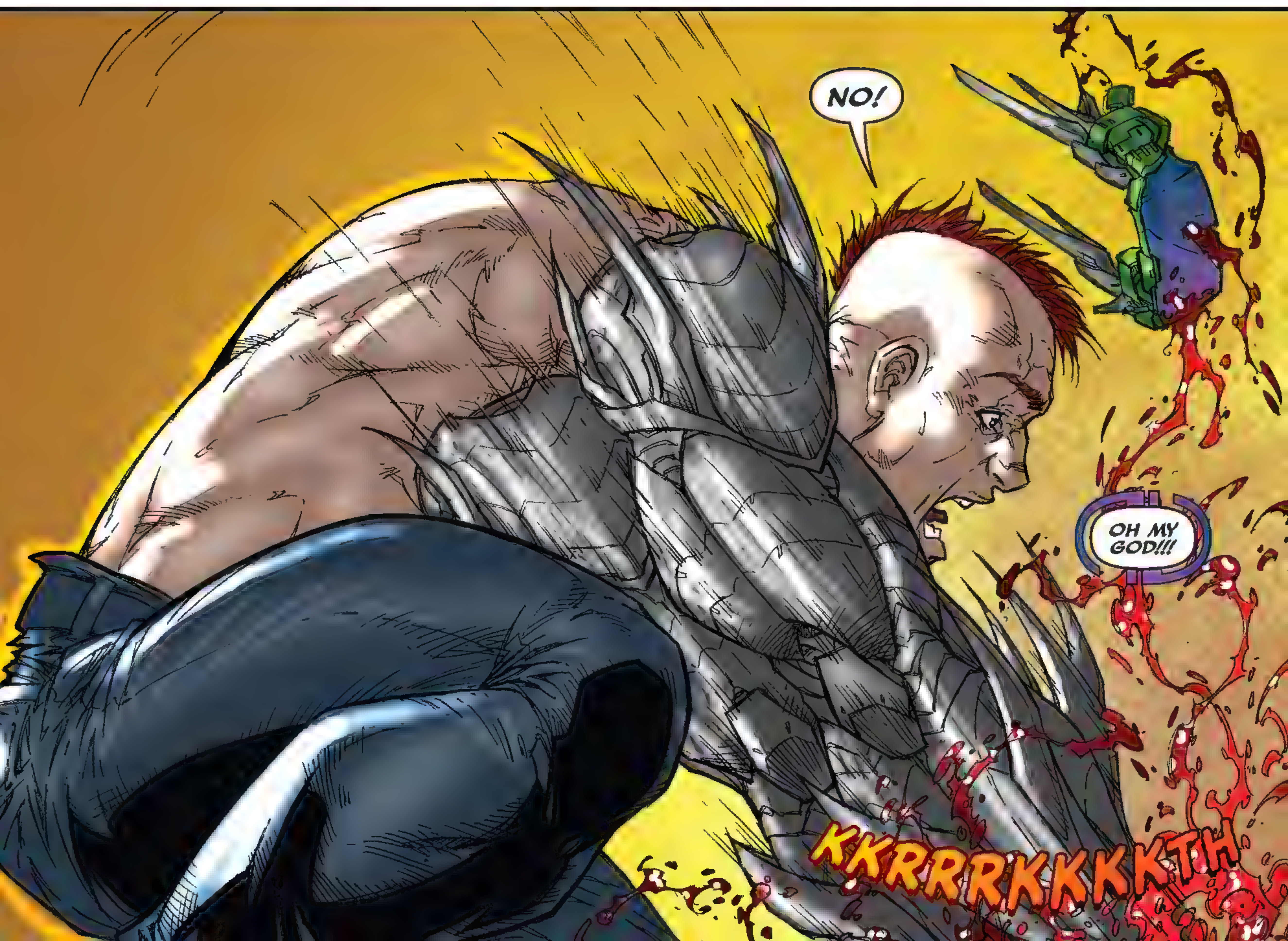
BEEEP



HUH?

WAIT...

AND WITH
THIS ONE OVER, BRIX
LOOKS READY TO DO A
LITTLE CELEBRATORY
DANCE. SUCH A
PERFORMER.



NO!

OH MY
GOD!!!

KKRRRKKKKTH



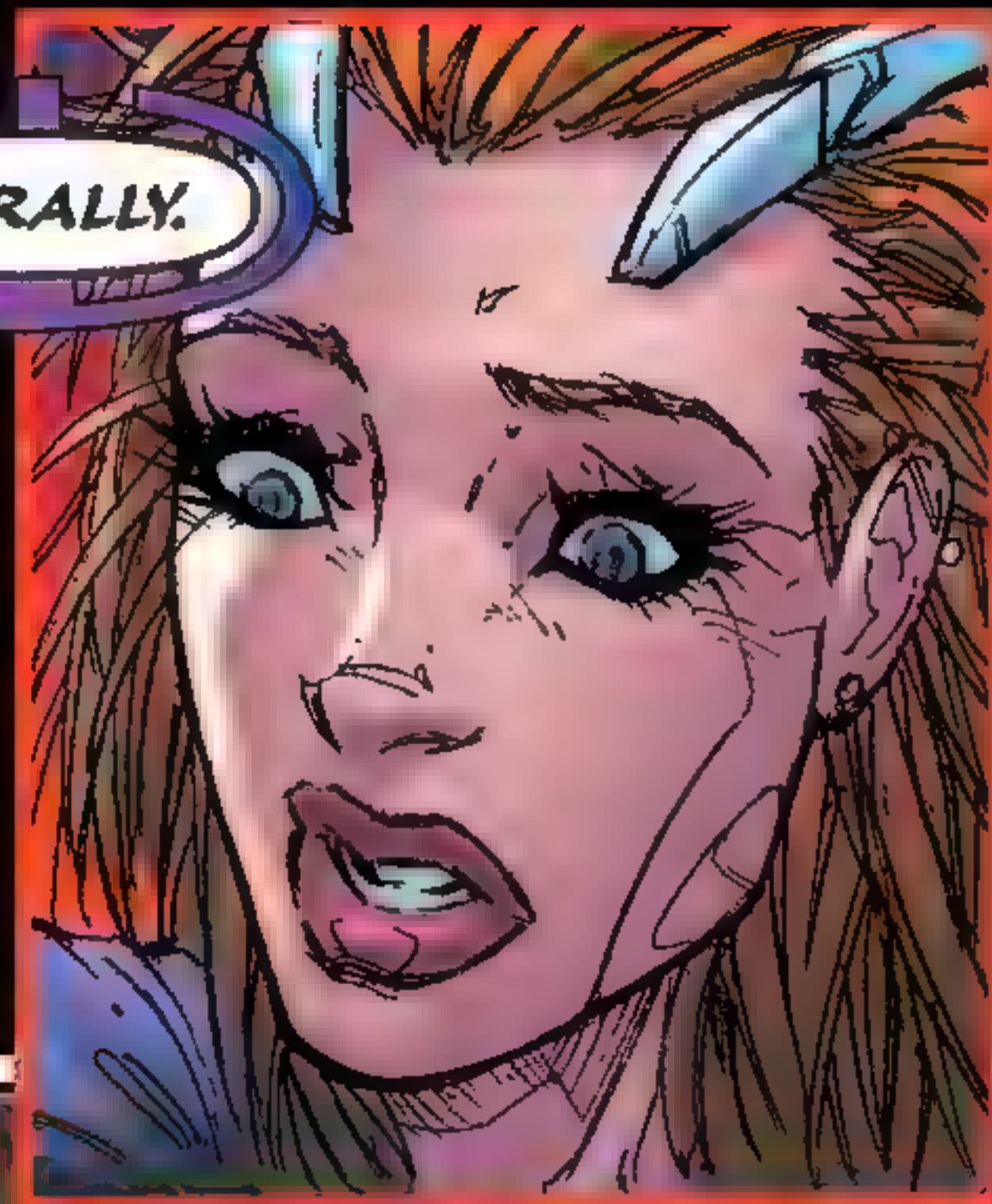
BRIX...



...HE JUST
CRUSHED
HIM...



...LITERALLY.



SECURITY.
CODE ALPHA!
CODE ALPHA!

I... I
DIDN'T...



STAND
DOWN,
BRIX!

LOOK
OUT!

HE'S OUT OF
CONTROL!



YOU
GUYS STAY
BACK.

I'VE
HANDLED
THIS JOKER
BEFORE.



HAVE YOU
LOST YOUR
MIND???

BENOIST!
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
I'M NOT IN
CONTROL.



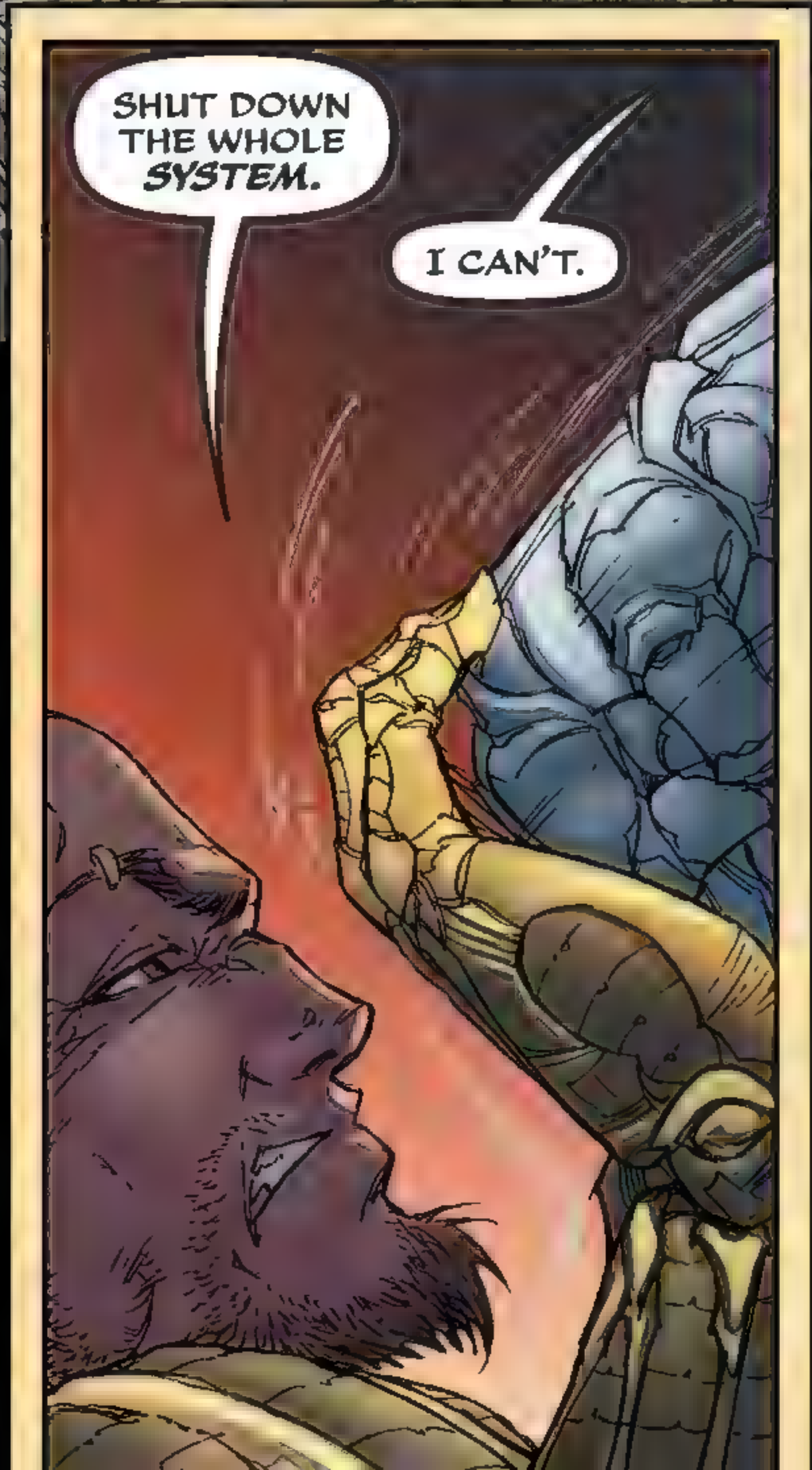
TELL
ME SOMETHING I
DON'T KNOW.



NO. I'M NOT
DOING THIS. MY
ARMS... THEY'RE
POSSESSED.



IT'S NOT
ME.

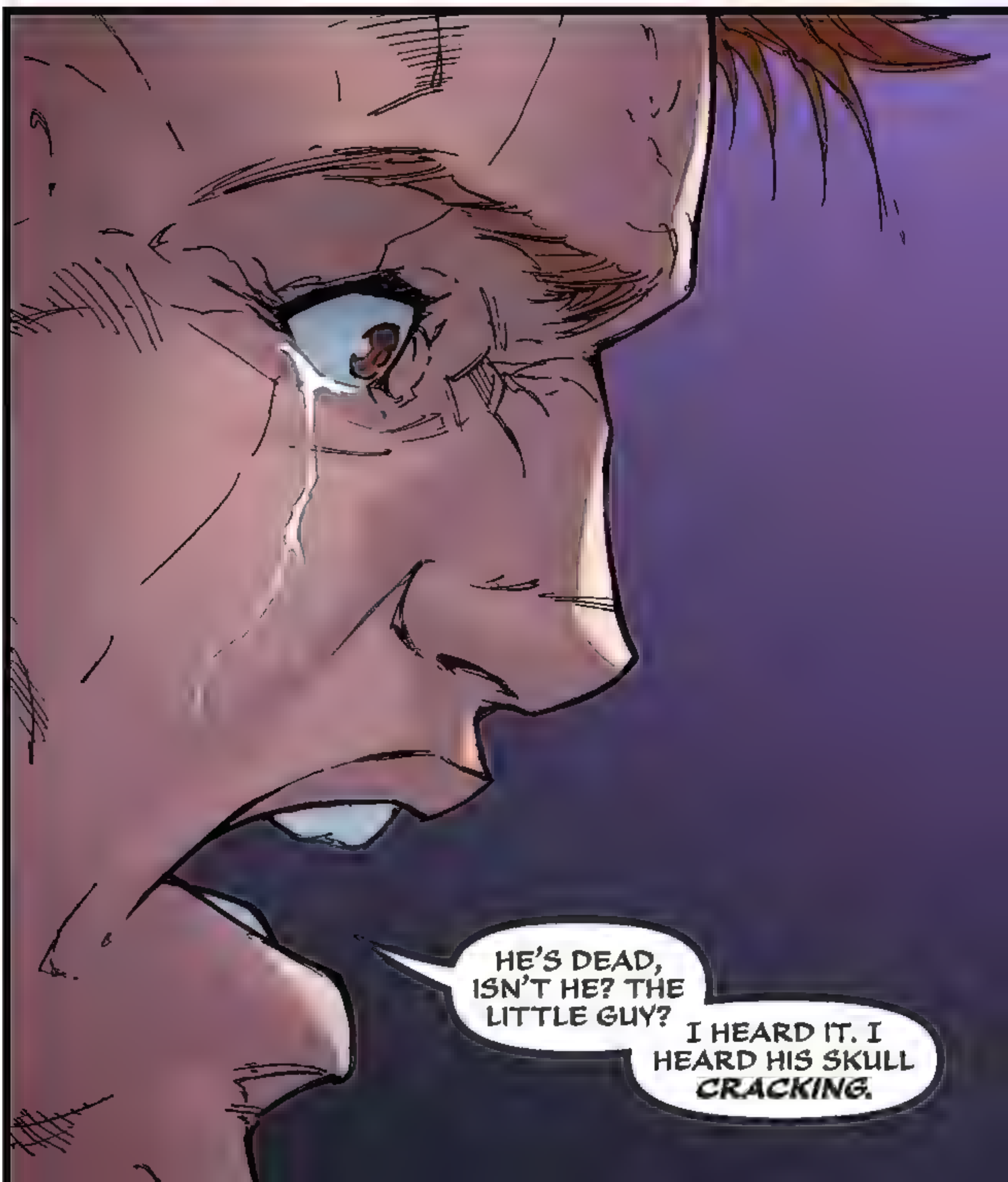
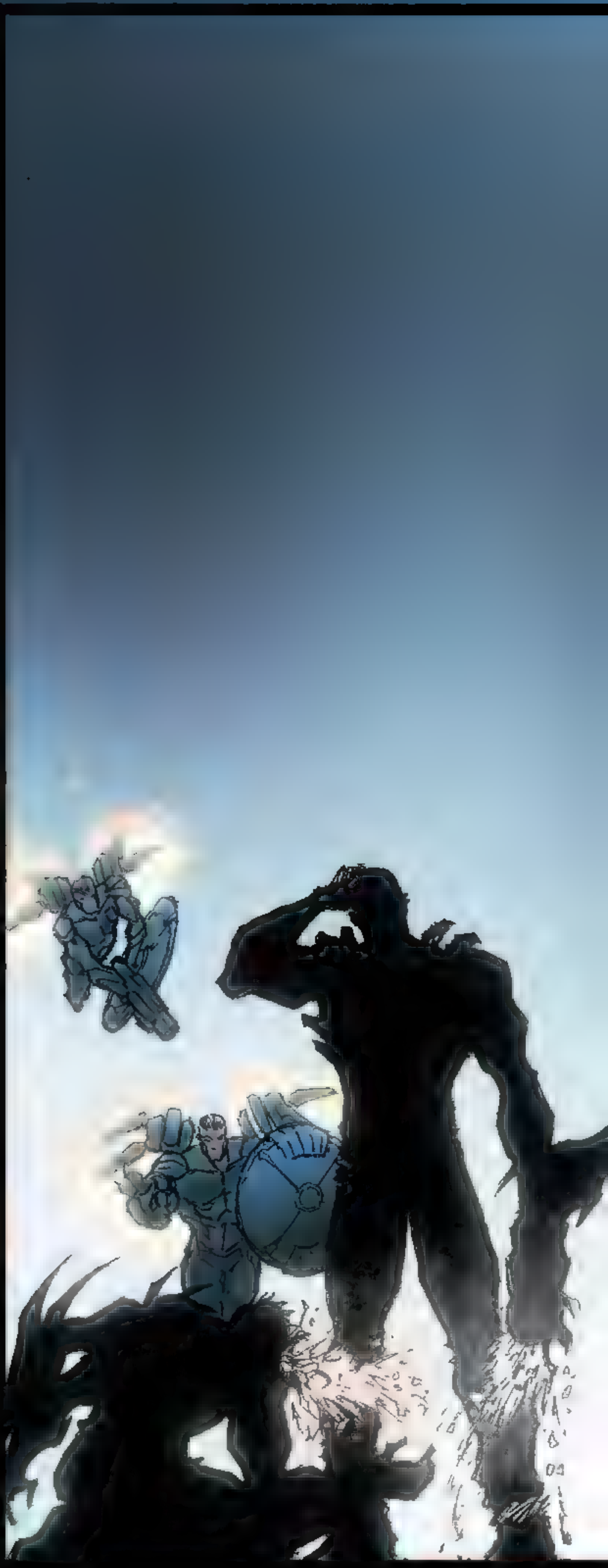
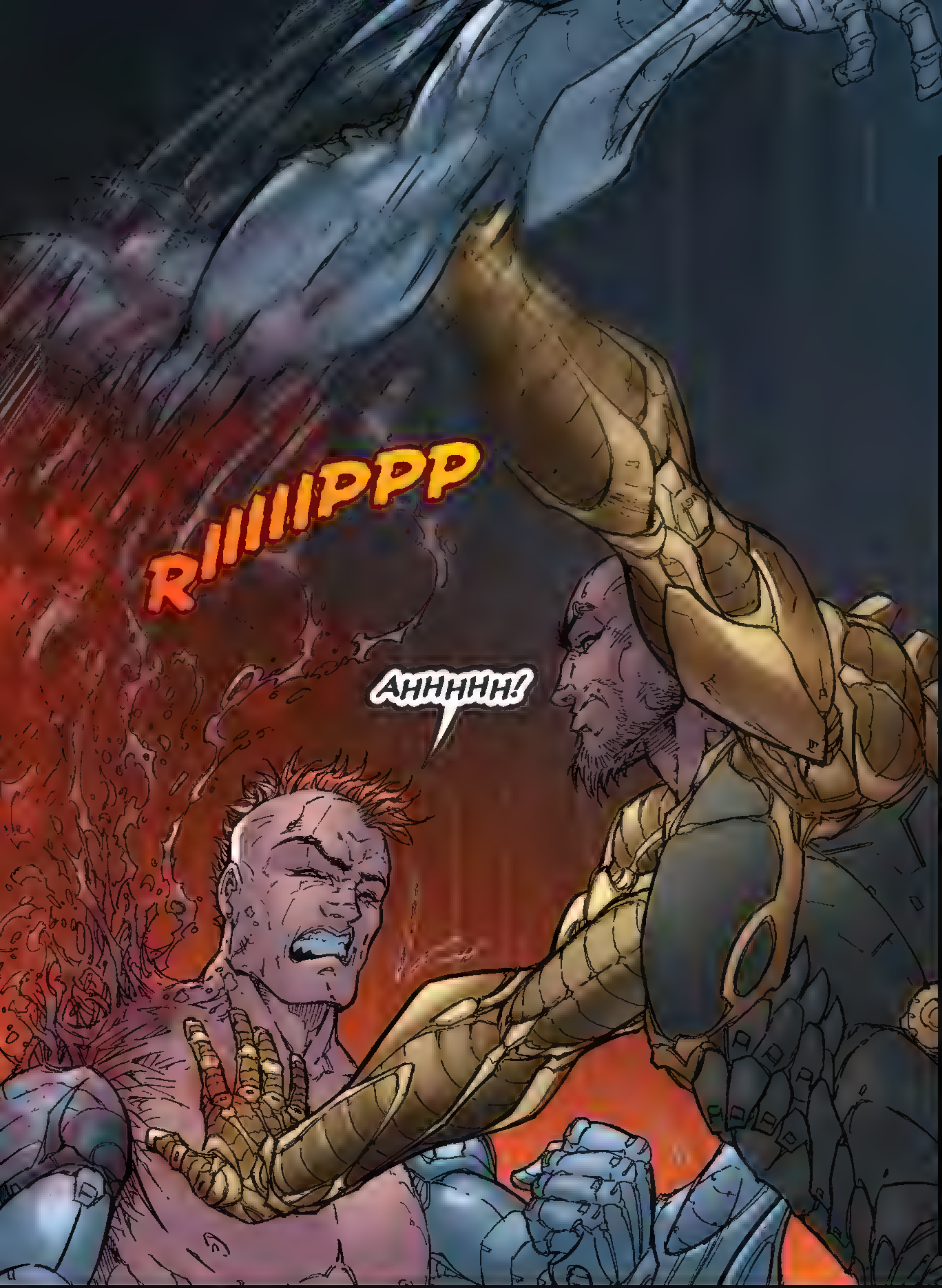


SHUT DOWN
THE WHOLE
SYSTEM.

I CAN'T.



MAYBE
I CAN. BUT
IT'S GOING
TO HURT.





THIS IS NUTS.
I MEAN, I KNEW
BRIX WAS A GRADE
A JERK, BUT A
MURDERER?

HE'S NOT
RESPONSIBLE.

HOW
CAN YOU SAY
THAT?

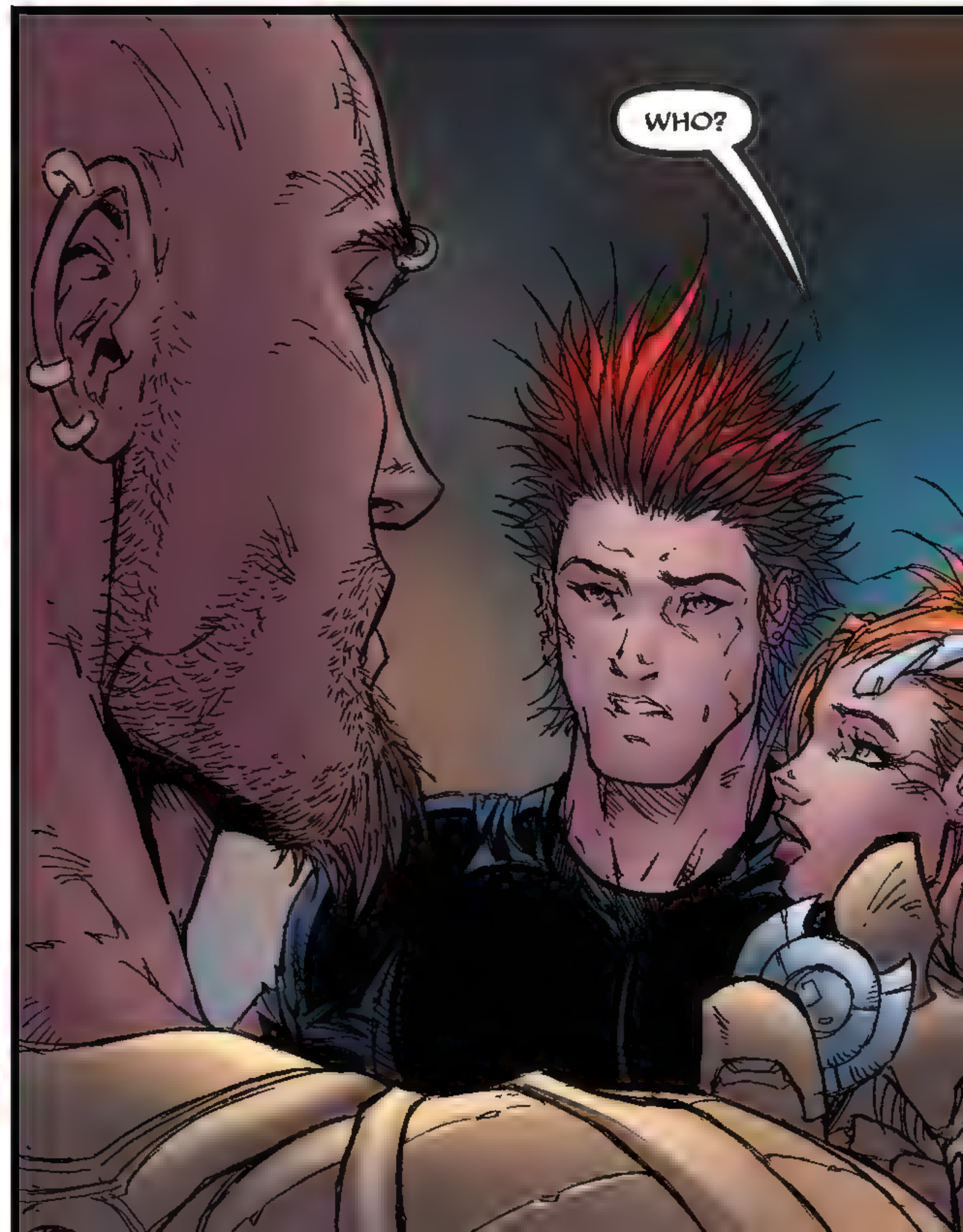


BECAUSE
SOMEBODY ELSE
WAS *PULLING HIS*
STRINGS.

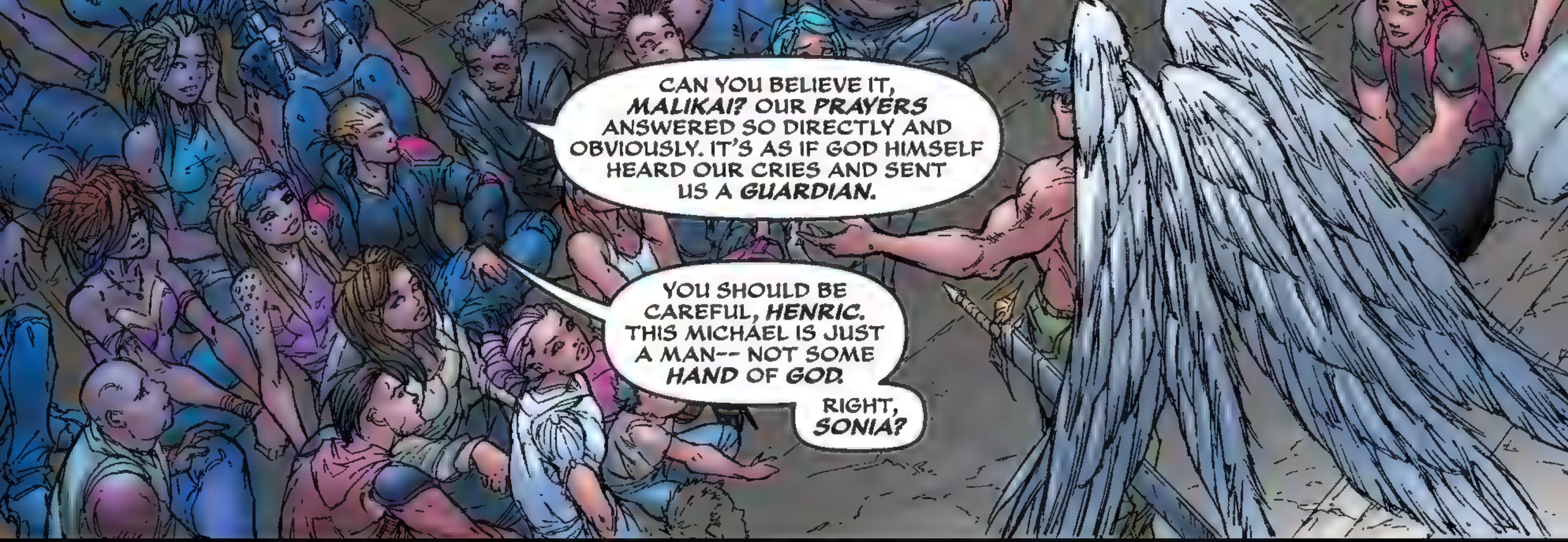
I'LL DO A
FULL *SPECTRUM*
ANALYSIS, BUT IT'S
NOT NECESSARY.



I RECOGNIZE THE
CRAFTSMANSHIP.
ABEL.



WHO?



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, MALIKAI? OUR PRAYERS ANSWERED SO DIRECTLY AND OBVIOUSLY. IT'S AS IF GOD HIMSELF HEARD OUR CRIES AND SENT US A **GUARDIAN**.

YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, **HENRIC**. THIS MICHAEL IS JUST A MAN-- NOT SOME HAND OF GOD.

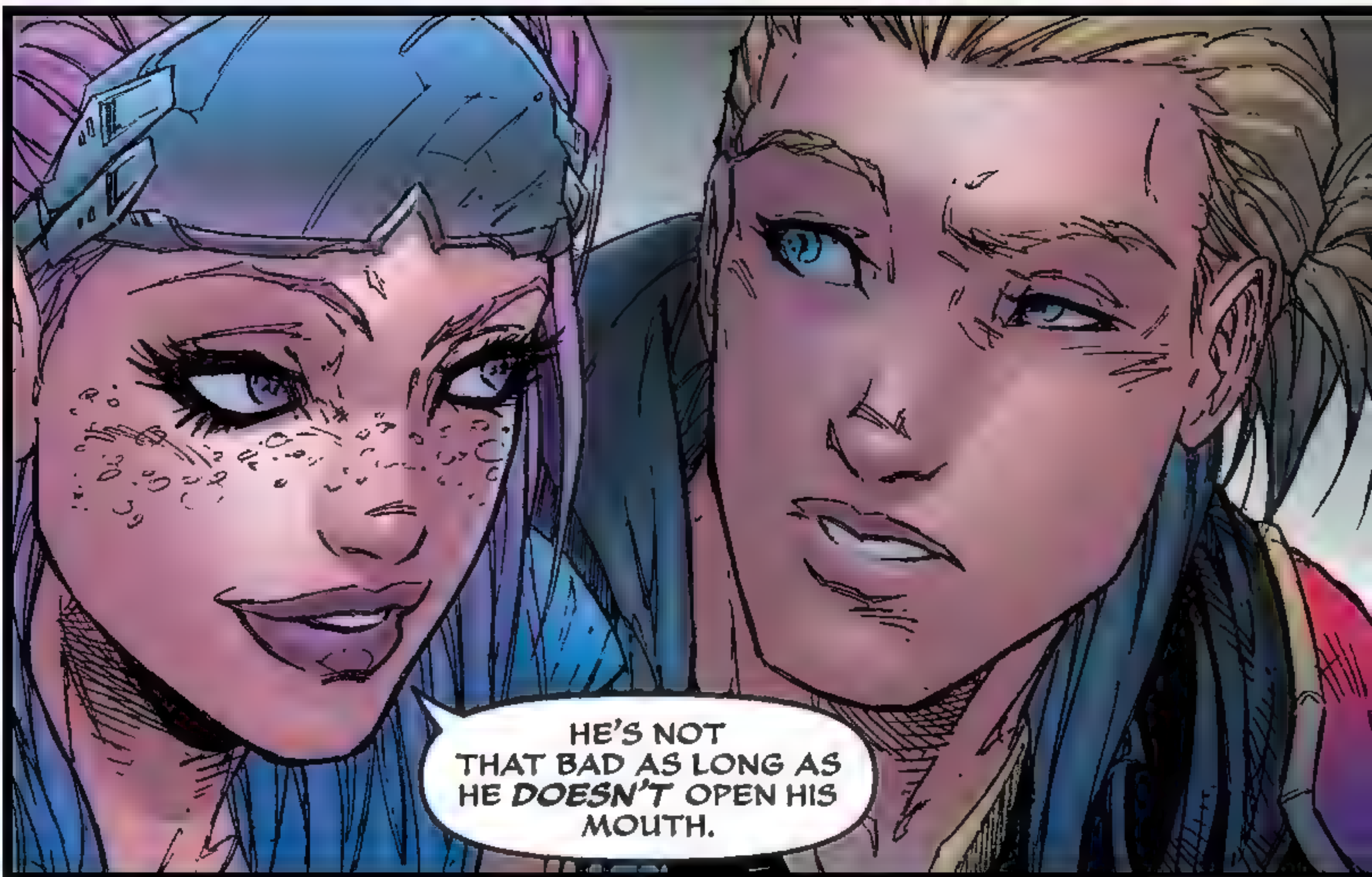
RIGHT, **SONIA**?



MORE LIKE THE **ABS** OF GOD.

SONIA?

HEY. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED WE STICK AROUND. I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.



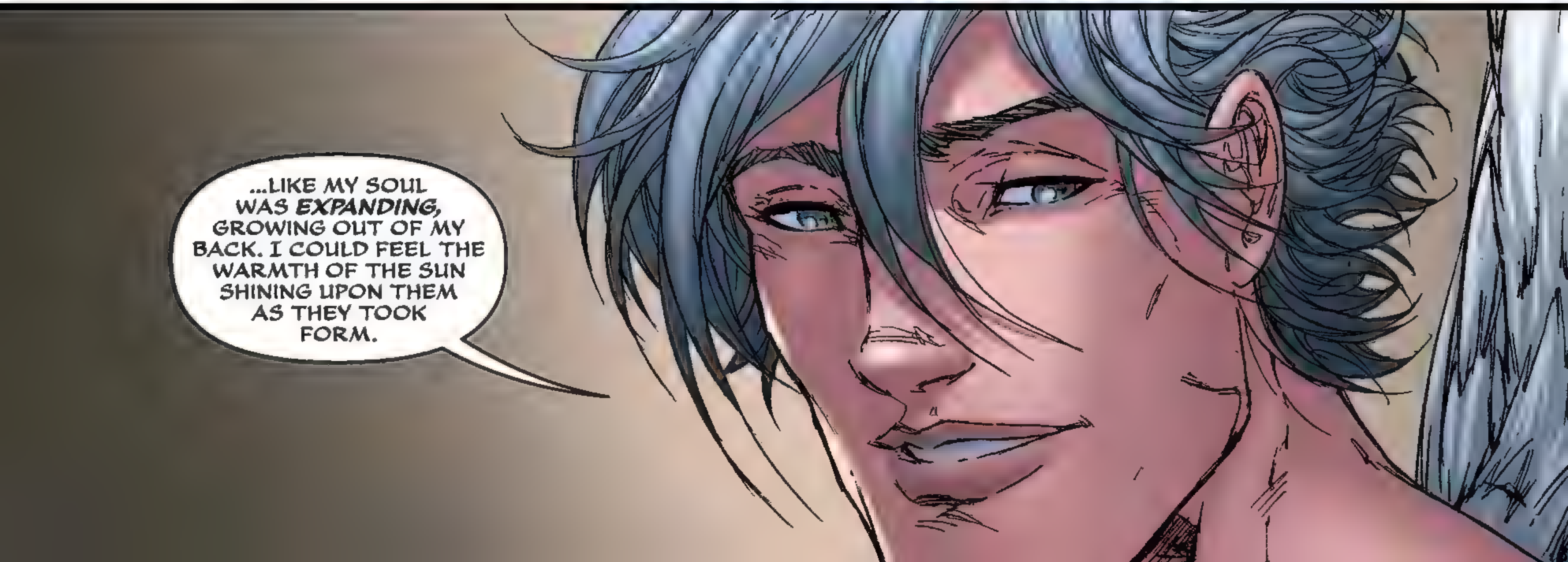
HE'S NOT THAT BAD AS LONG AS HE **DOESN'T** OPEN HIS MOUTH.



WHAT WAS IT LIKE? WHEN YOU GOT YOUR WINGS?

GLORIOUS. **WONDROUS**. MAGICAL.

IT FELT LIKE... LIKE...



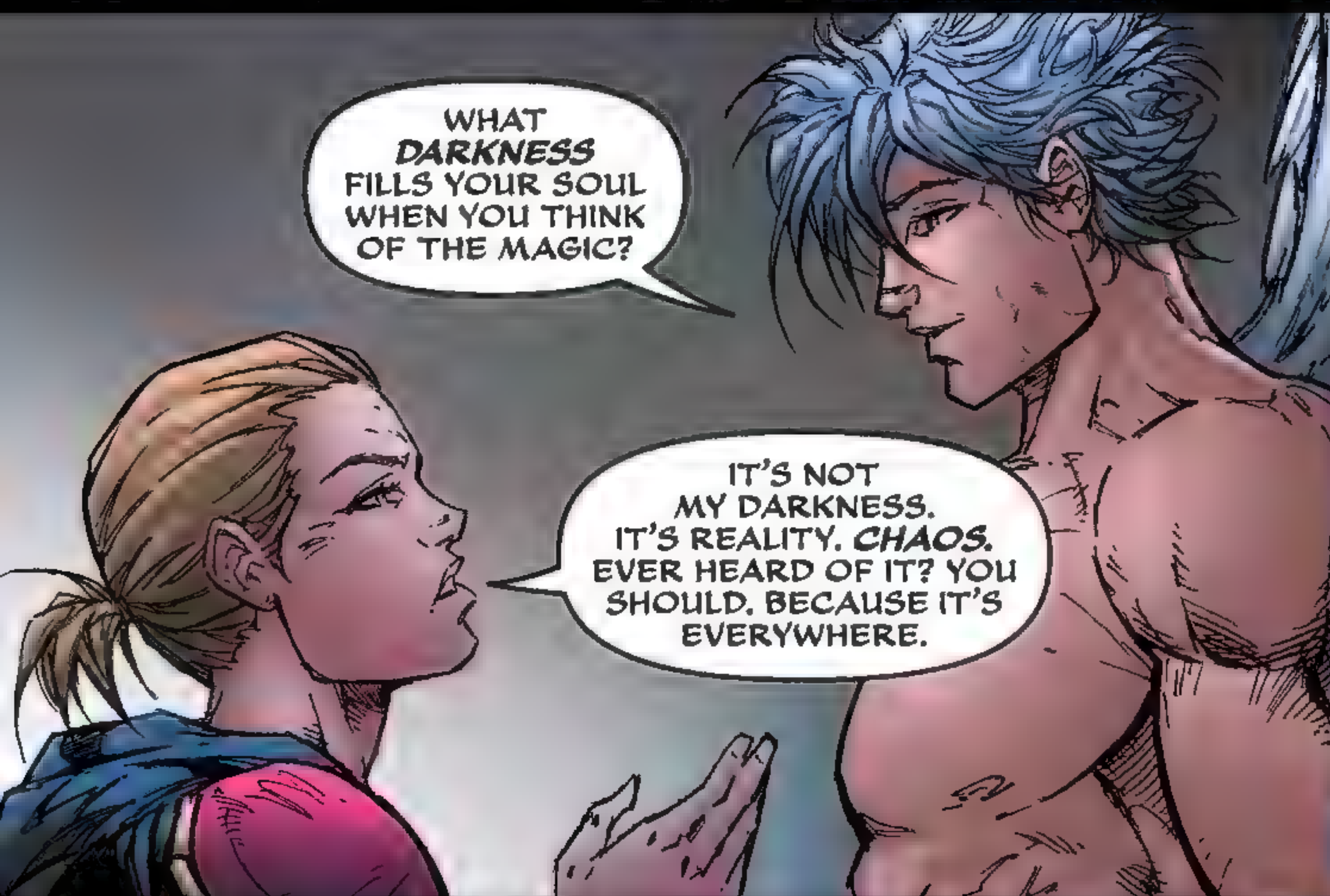
...LIKE MY SOUL WAS **EXPANDING**, GROWING OUT OF MY BACK. I COULD FEEL THE WARMTH OF THE SUN SHINING UPON THEM AS THEY TOOK FORM.



HA!
RIGHT. WINGS
EXPLODE OUT YOUR
PROTRUDING BONE,
RIPPING YOUR FLESH,
BLOOD EVERYWHERE--
AND YOU MAKE IT
SOUND LIKE A DAY
AT THE BEACH.

WAY
TO SELL IT,
DUDE.

WHY
WOULD YOU
THINK SOMETHING
AS WONDERFUL AS
THIS WOULD BE
ANYTHING BUT
PURE JOY?



WHAT
DARKNESS
FILLS YOUR SOUL
WHEN YOU THINK
OF THE MAGIC?

IT'S NOT
MY DARKNESS.
IT'S REALITY. **CHAOS**.
EVER HEARD OF IT? YOU
SHOULD. BECAUSE IT'S
EVERYWHERE.



DON'T MIND HIM. HE'S
JUST HAVING A ROUGH DAY.
CUT OUT **CAFFEINE**.

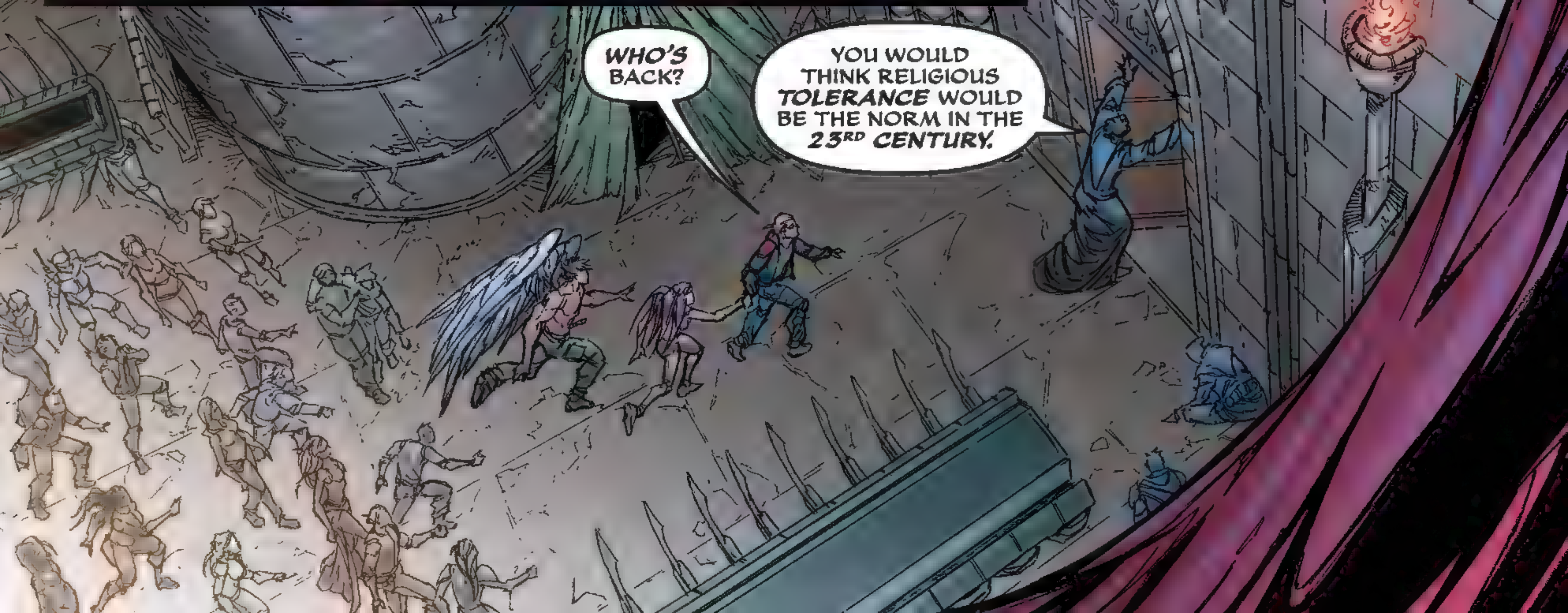
PLEASE,
CONTINUE WITH
YOUR STORY ABOUT
THE SUN SHINING
ON YOUR
BODY.



HENRIC!
HELP!

WHAT
HAPPENED?

THEY'RE BACK.
ATTACKED US
THIS TIME!



WHO'S
BACK?

YOU WOULD
THINK RELIGIOUS
TOLERANCE WOULD
BE THE NORM IN THE
23RD CENTURY.



SADLY,
YOU'D BE
WRONG.

WE DON'T
WANT YOU
HERE!

FRIGGIN'
GYPSIES!

GO BACK
TO WHERE YOU
CAME FROM!



THERE'S
NO NEED TO
FEAR. I GOT
THIS.

ELSEWHERE...

SEE,
WHAT DID I
TELL YOU? WE
BLEND RIGHT
IN.

BUT
STILL STANDING
OUT WHERE IT
COUNTS.

WHAT
DO YOU THINK?
BLOND OR THE
BRUNETTE?

TICK.
TOCK. BETTER
DECIDE.

NEITHER.

COME ON,
GRACE.

I SAID NO,
VANYSS.

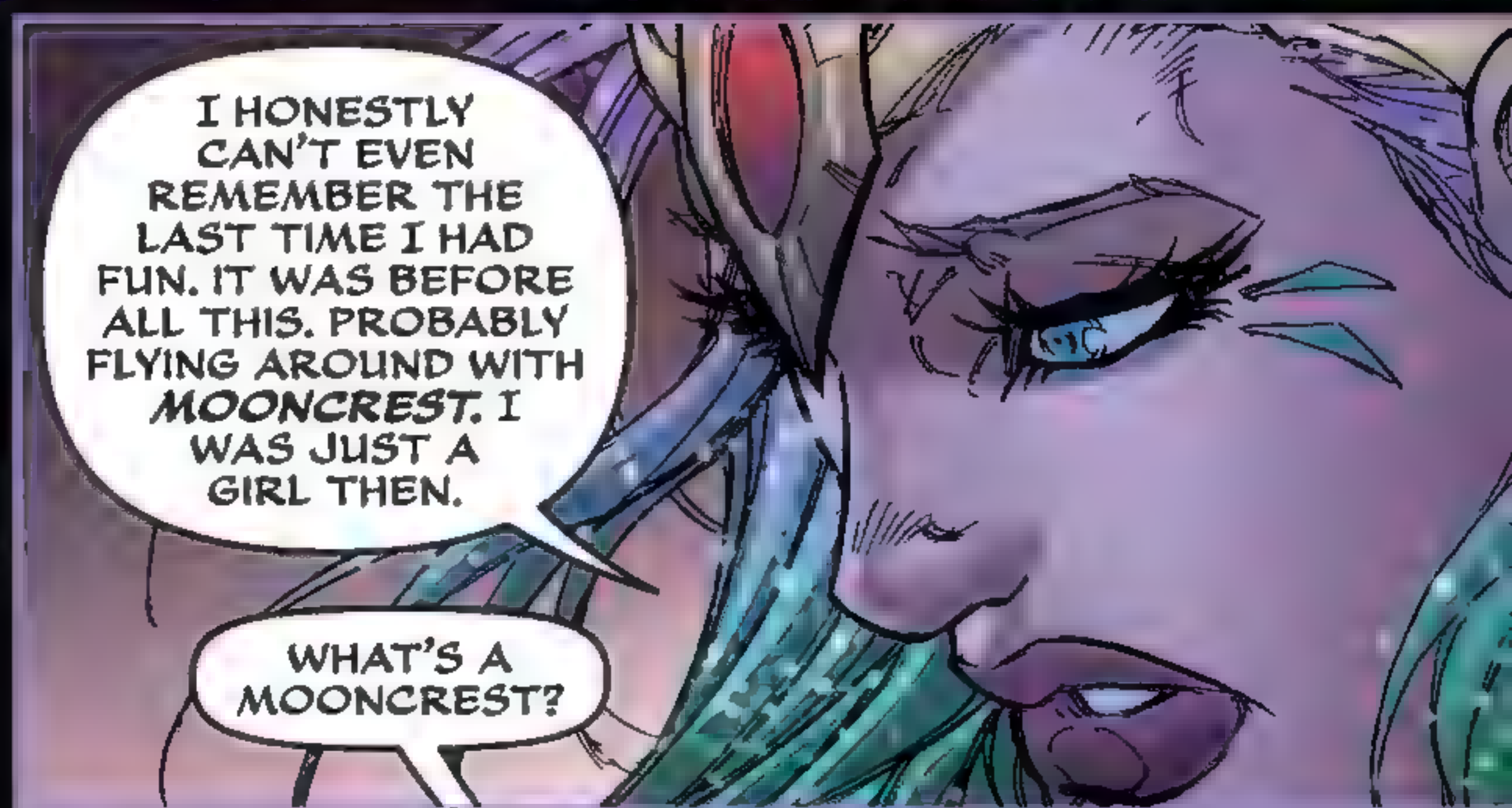


I'M SORRY,
GRACE.



IT'S OKAY.

I WASN'T
ASKING YOU TO
MARRY ONE OF
THEM. FIGURED WE
COULD JUST HAVE
SOME **LAUGHS**. GIVE
THEM FALSE HOPE
THAT THEY'D EVEN
HAVE A CHANCE
WITH US.



I HONESTLY
CAN'T EVEN
REMEMBER THE
LAST TIME I HAD
FUN. IT WAS BEFORE
ALL THIS. PROBABLY
FLYING AROUND WITH
MOONCREST. I
WAS JUST A
GIRL THEN.

WHAT'S A
MOONCREST?



A **DRAGON**.

HONESTLY?
AN ACTUAL
DRAGON?
THEY REALLY
EXISTED.



NOT
EXISTED. EXIST.
WOULD YOU LIKE
TO SEE ONE?

YES!
GOD, YES.

YOU ARE
SOMETHING,
VANYSS. I
WISH...



...I WISH I
COULD **SEE**
THINGS AS
YOU DO.



WHY
CAN'T YOU?

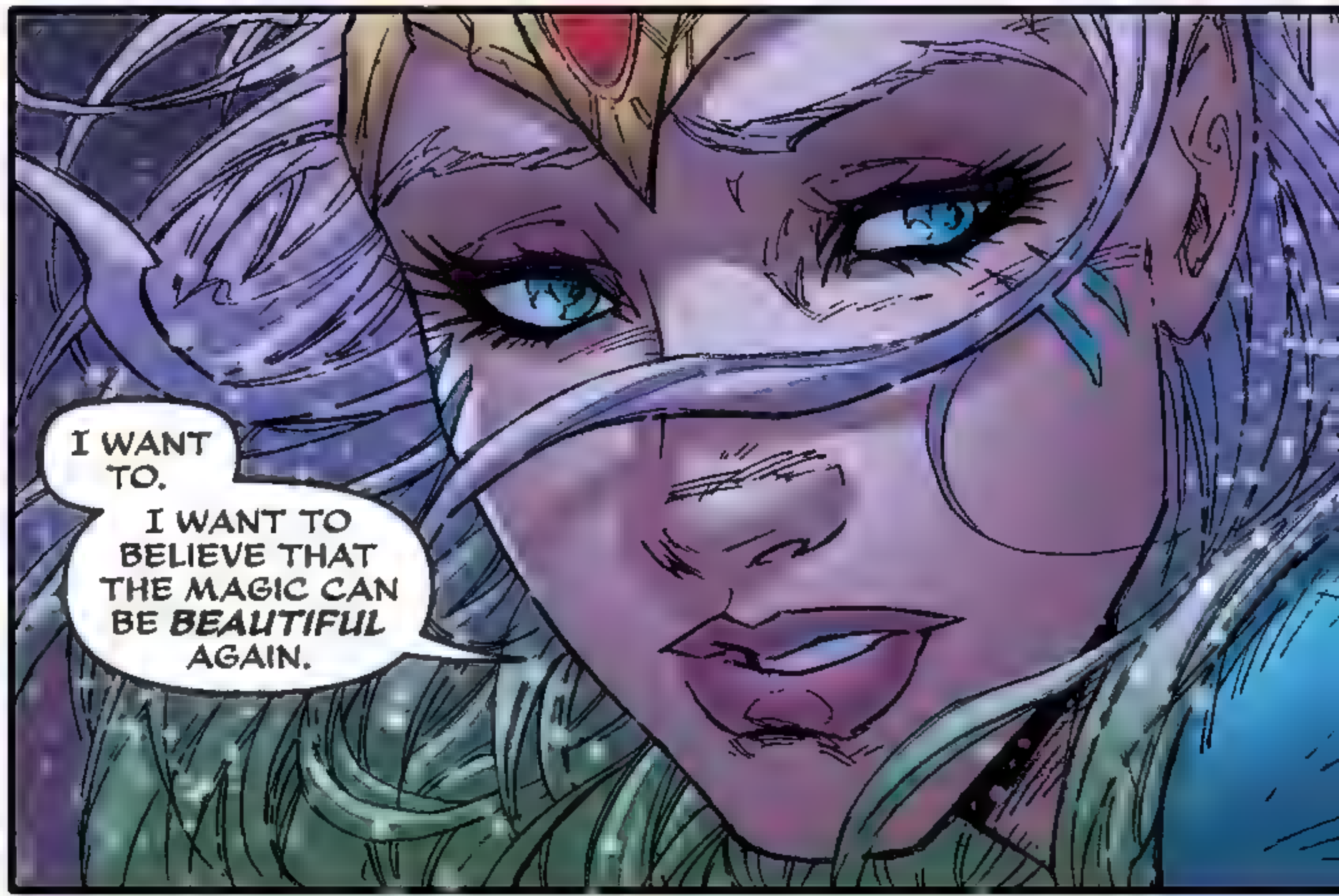
BECAUSE
I'VE SEEN TOO
MUCH. I'VE *LOST*
TOO MUCH.

THE MAGIC
IS WONDROUS, BUT IT
IS ALSO *DANGEROUS*
AND *DESTRUCTIVE*.



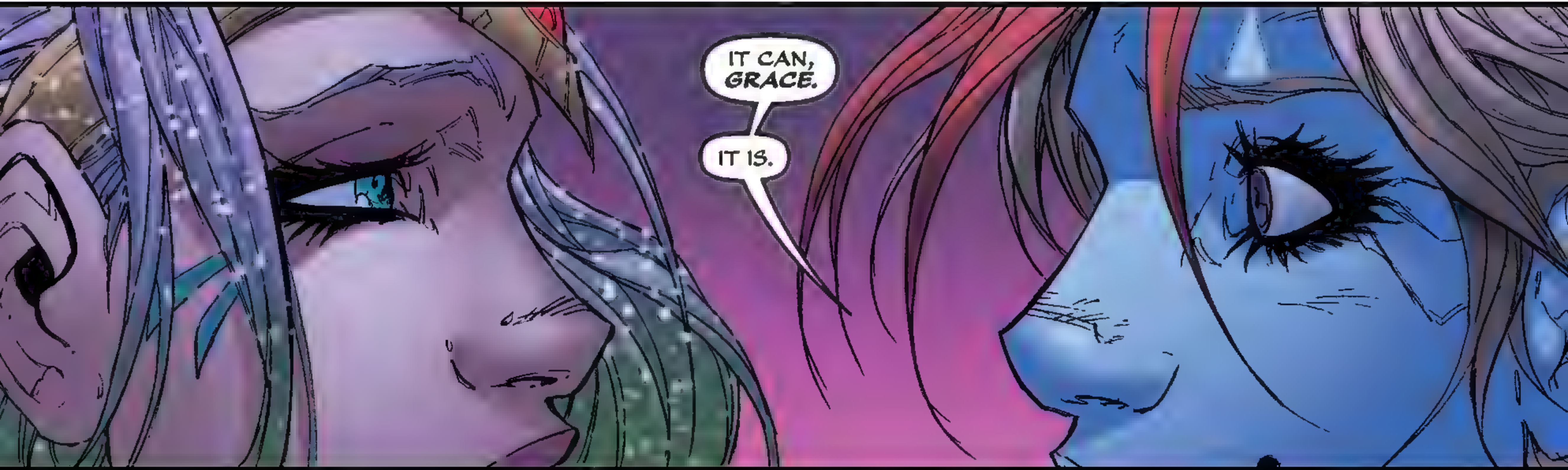
I AM
SURE.

BUT I
THINK ALL
THAT HISTORY
IS *WEIGHING* YOU
DOWN-- CRUSHING
YOUR *SPIRIT*. YOU
HAVE TO LET
IT GO.



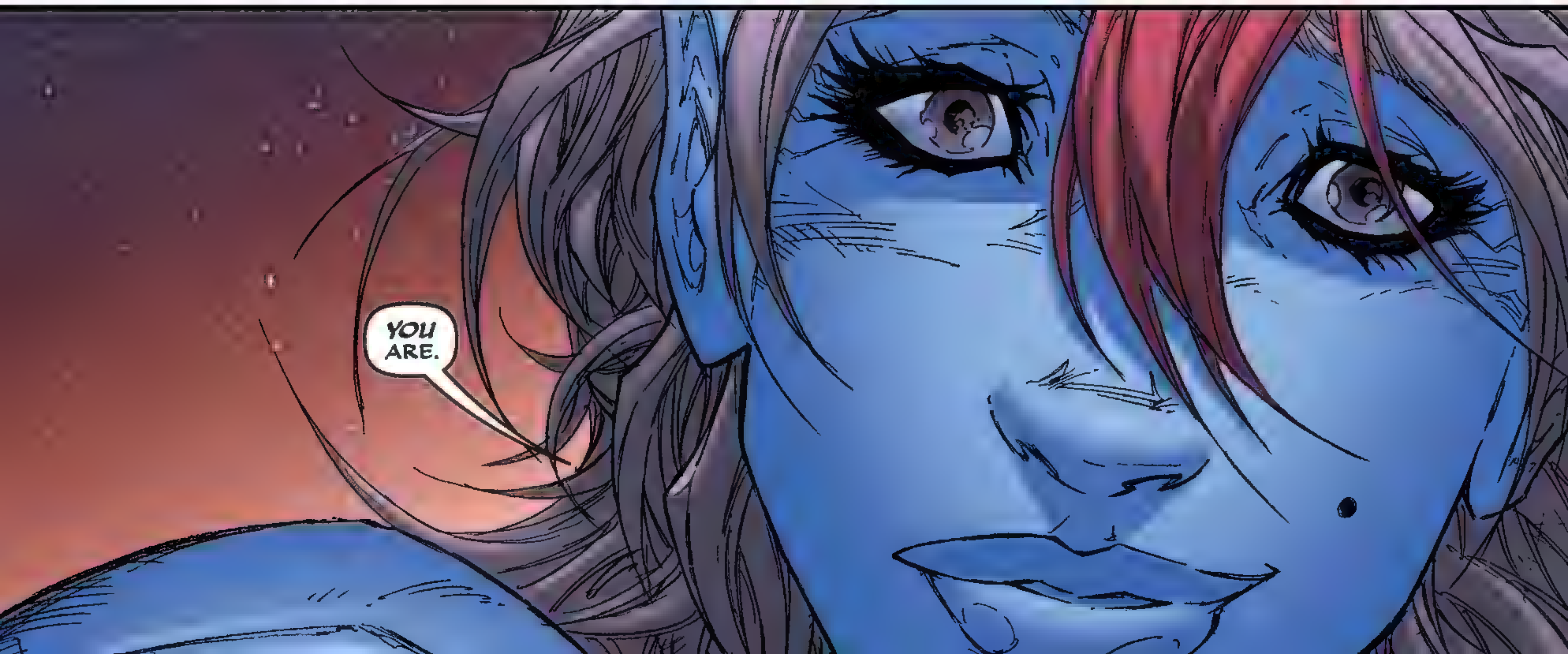
I WANT
TO.

I WANT TO
BELIEVE THAT
THE MAGIC CAN
BE *BEAUTIFUL*
AGAIN.



IT CAN,
GRACE.

IT IS.



YOU
ARE.

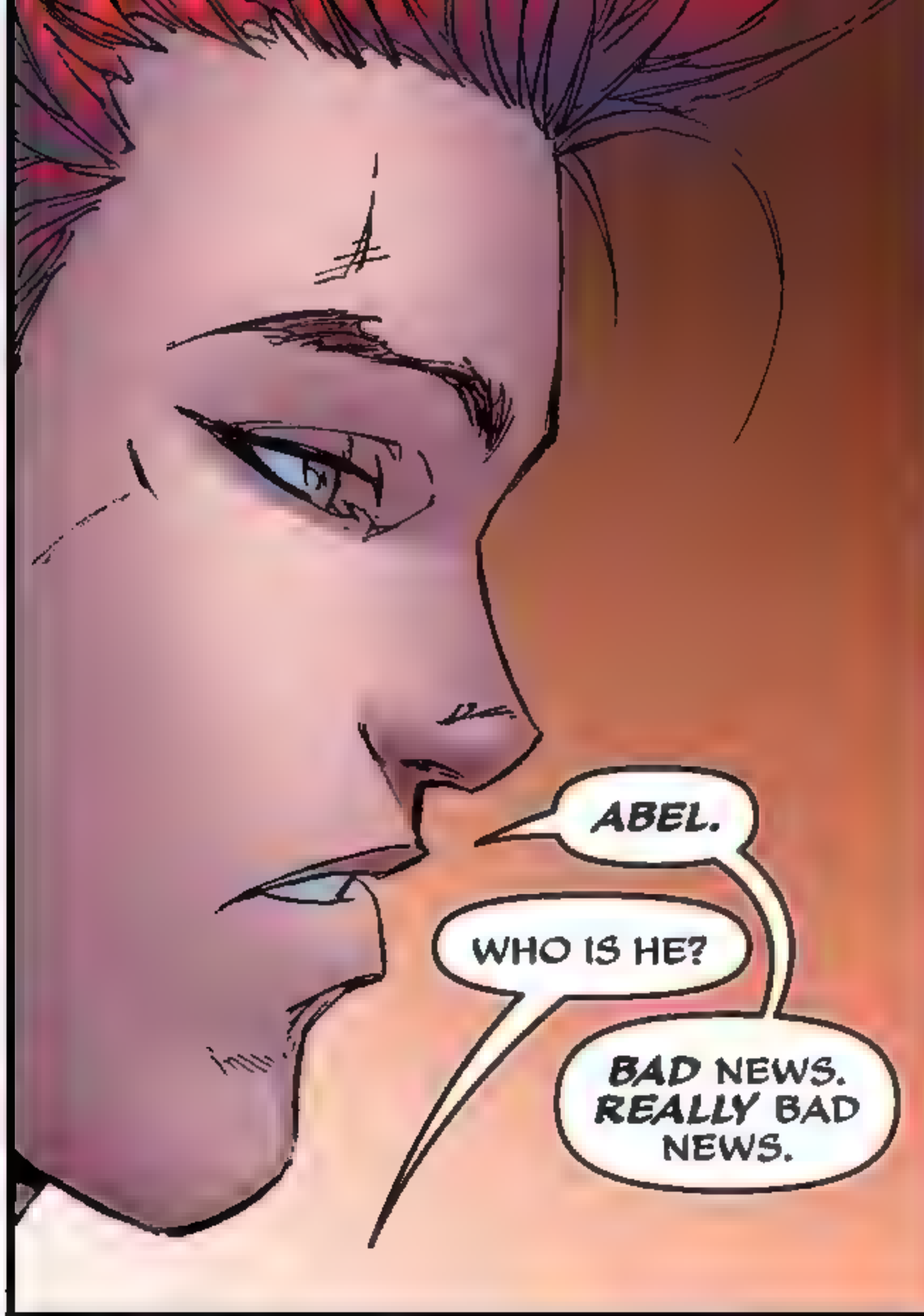




YOU
OKAY?

YEAH.
FINE. WHY?

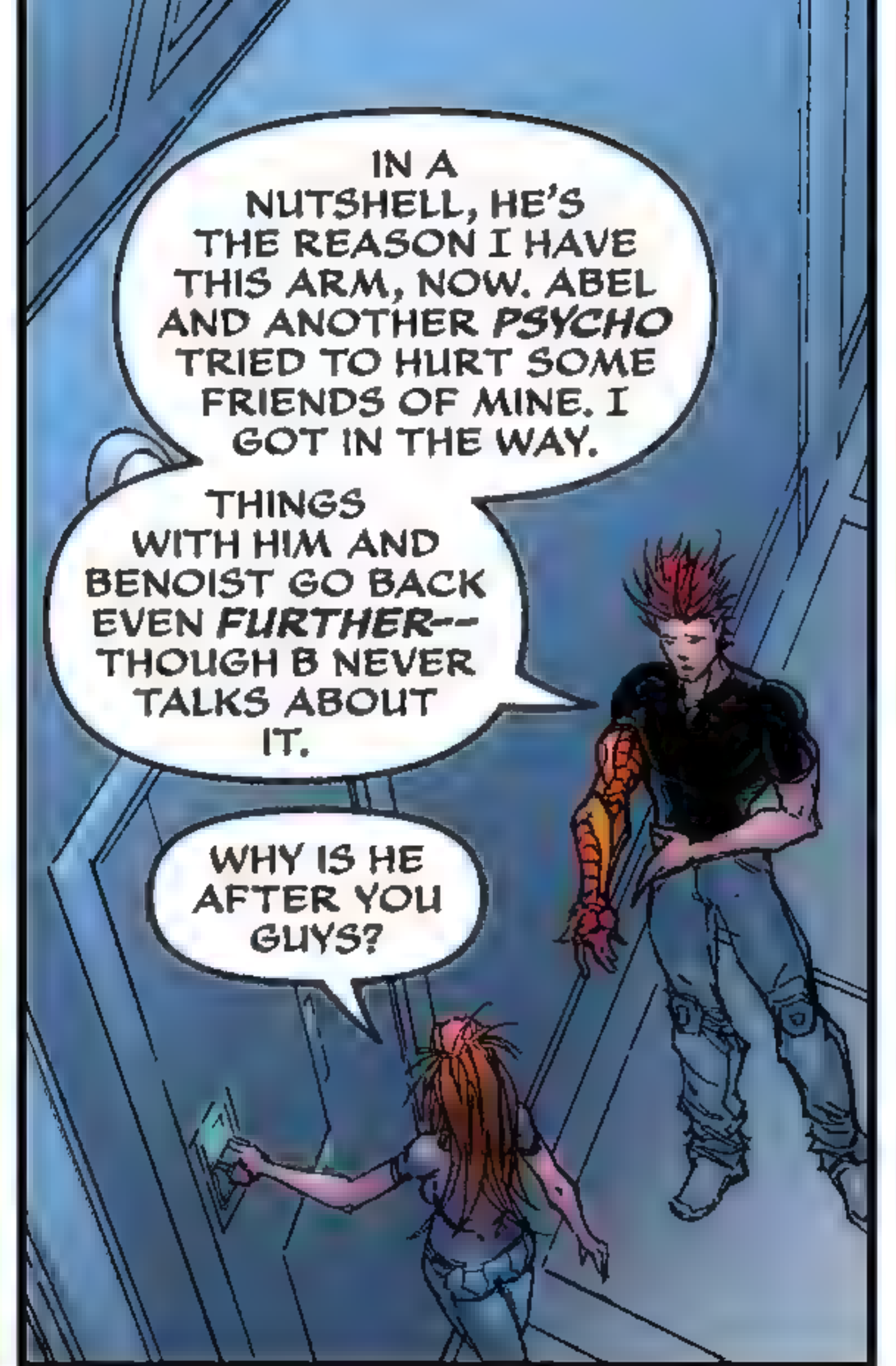
WELL,
YOU'VE BEEN
RATHER *QUIET*
SINCE BENOIST
MENTIONED THAT
GUY'S NAME.
WHAT WAS
IT?



ABEL.

WHO IS HE?

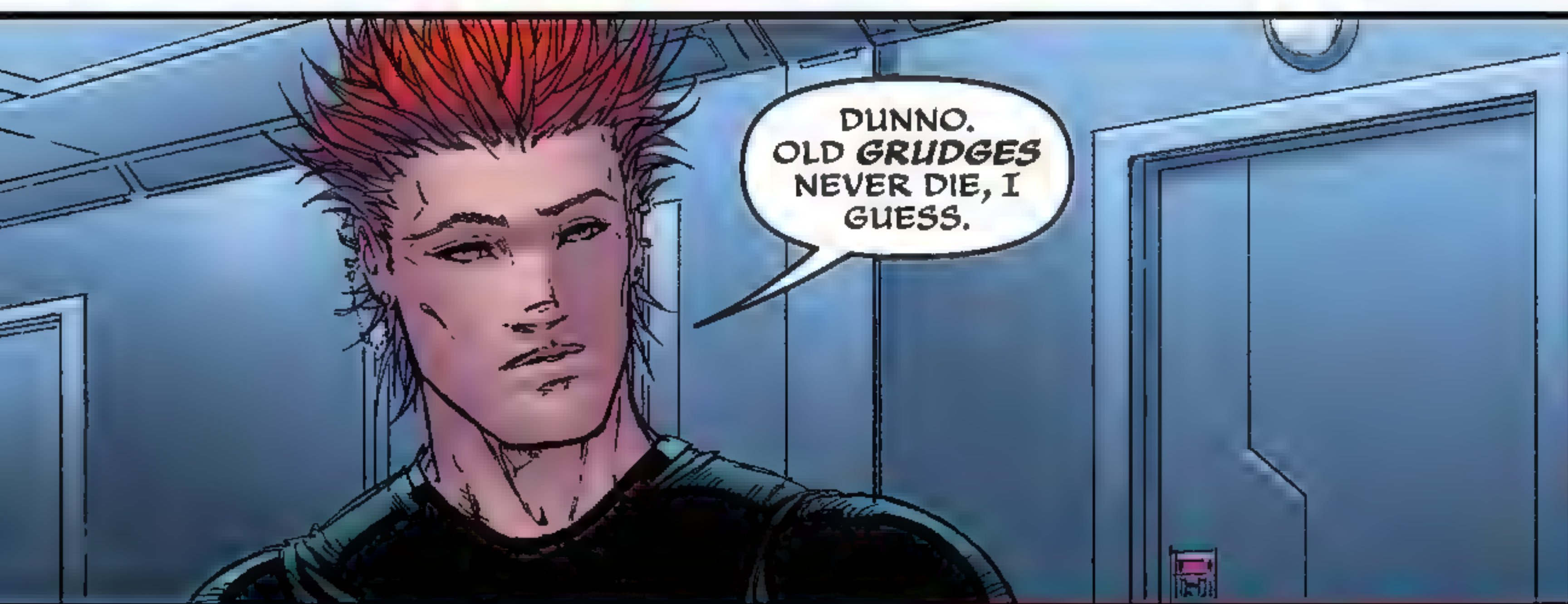
BAD NEWS.
REALLY BAD
NEWS.



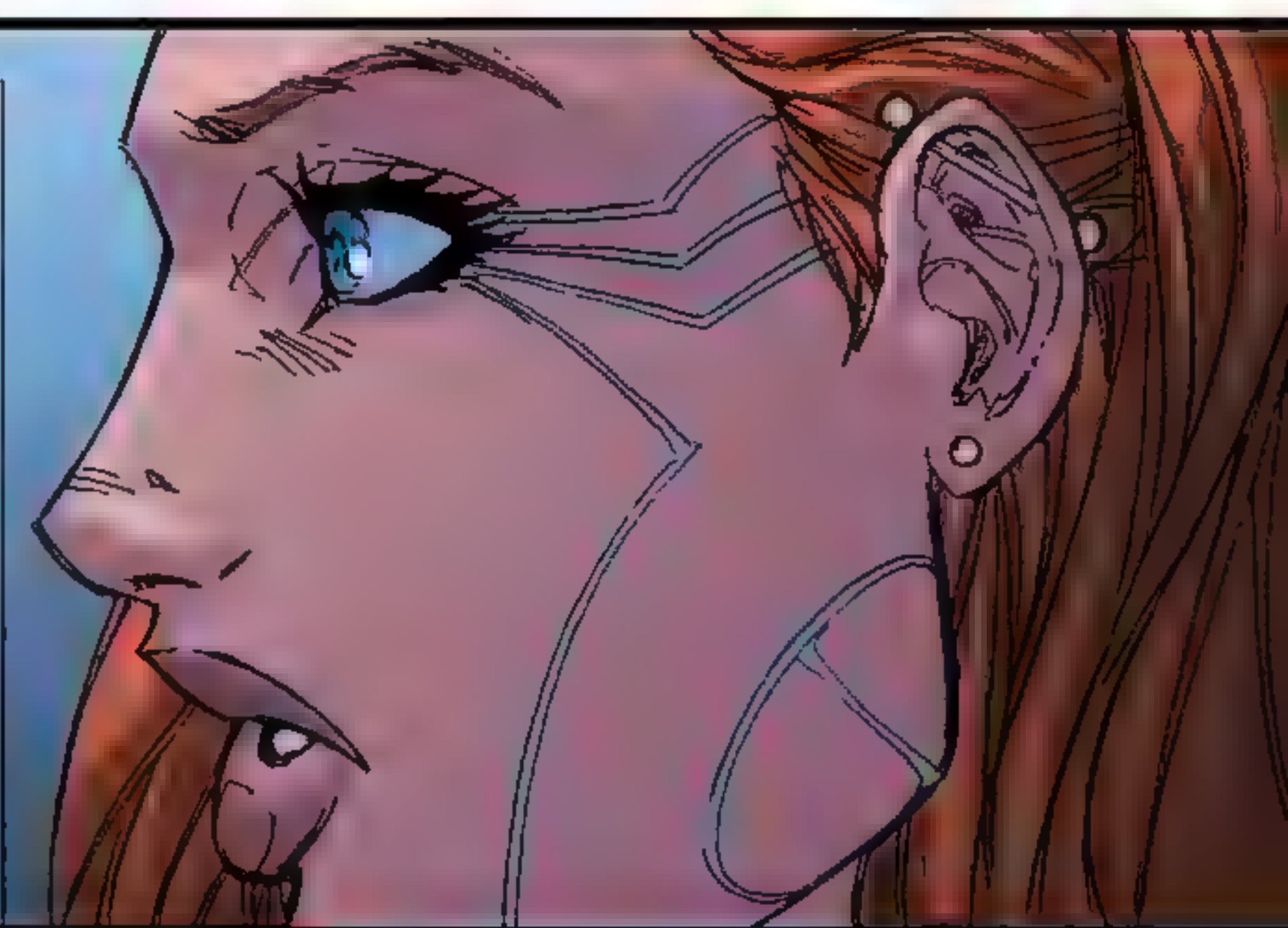
IN A
NUTSHELL, HE'S
THE REASON I HAVE
THIS ARM, NOW. ABEL
AND ANOTHER *PSYCHO*
TRIED TO HURT SOME
FRIENDS OF MINE. I
GOT IN THE WAY.

THINGS
WITH HIM AND
BENOIST GO BACK
EVEN *FURTHER*--
THOUGH B NEVER
TALKS ABOUT
IT.

WHY IS HE
AFTER YOU
GUYS?



DUNNO.
OLD *GRUDGES*
NEVER DIE, I
GUESS.



WANNA
COME IN?

ACTUALLY, I'M
GOING TO HEAD
BACK. CHECK IN
ON BENOIST.

LOOK AT
YOU ACTING ALL
PROTECTIVE.

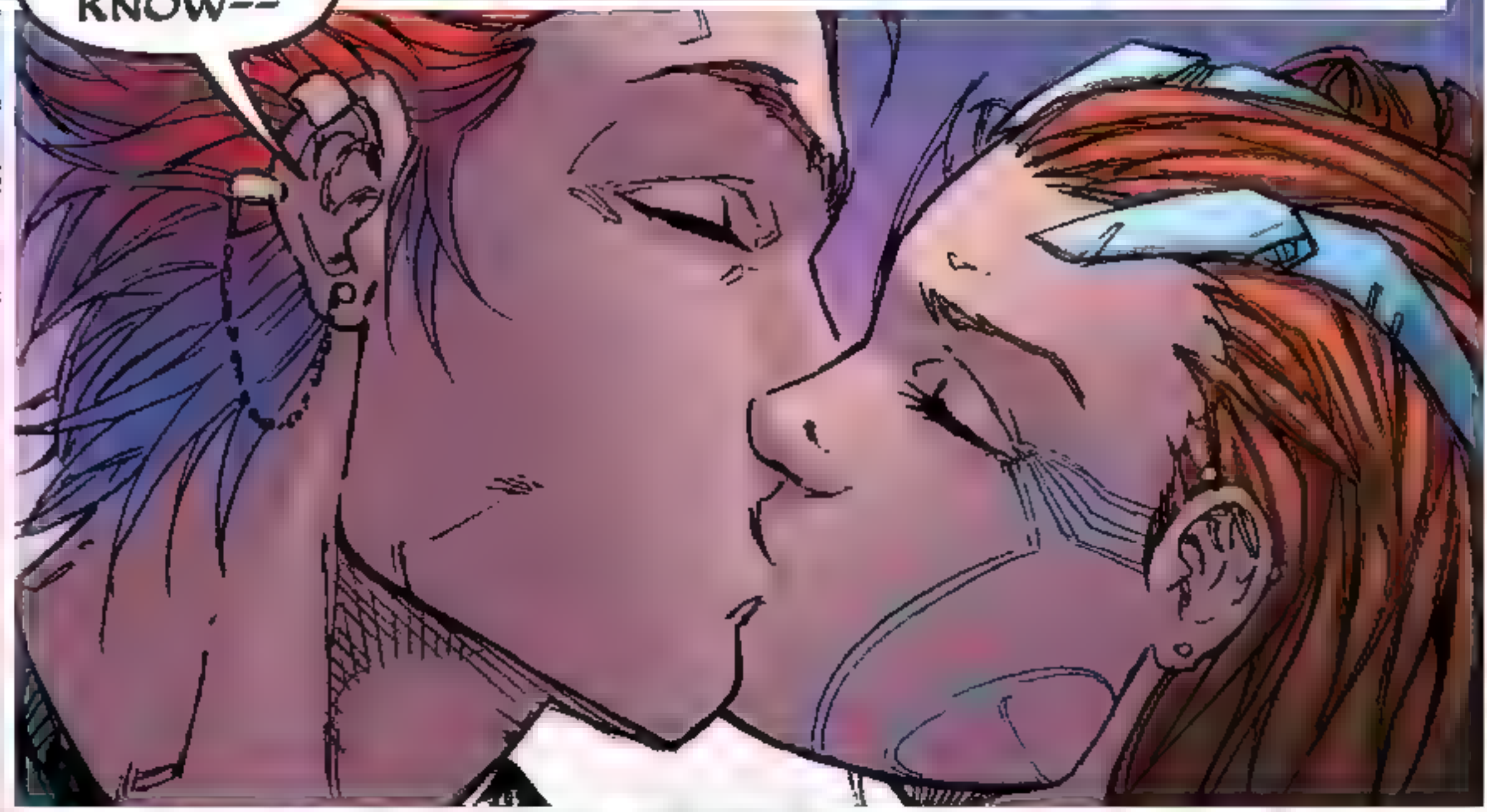
YEAH,
WELL... YA
KNOW--

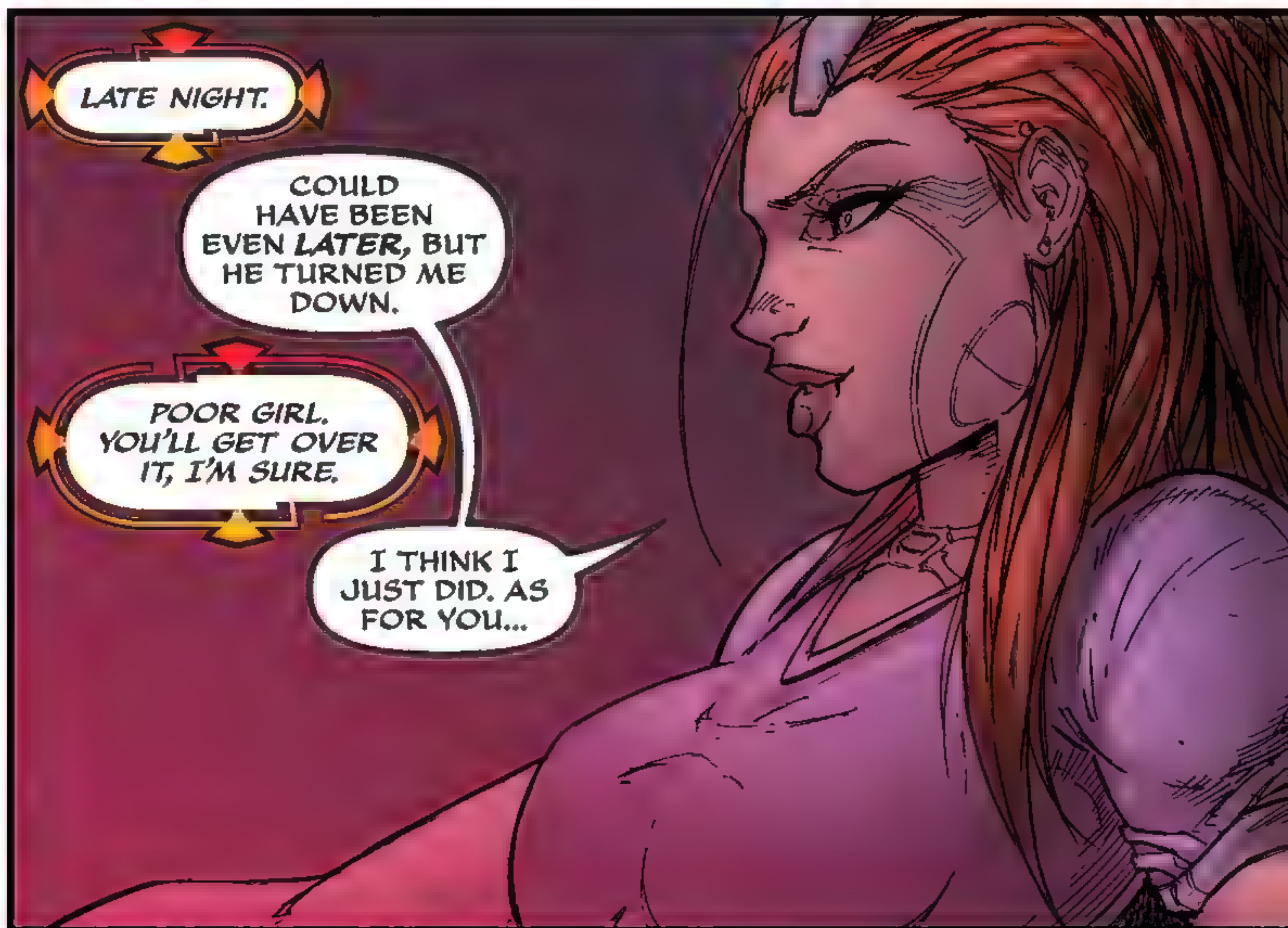
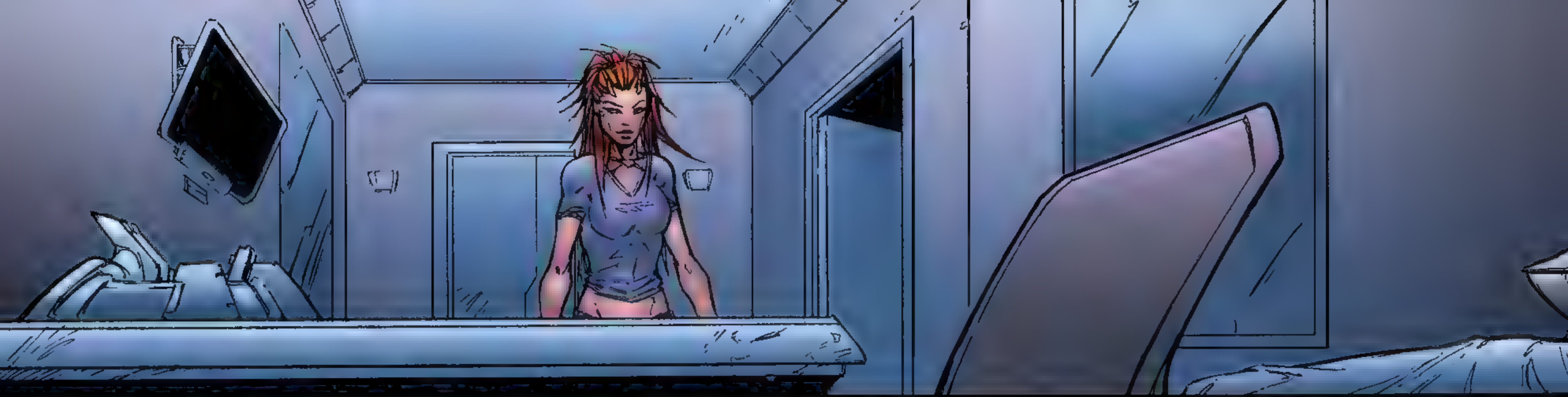


I SURE
DO.

SEE YOU
TOMORROW?

OF COURSE.
GOOD NIGHT.



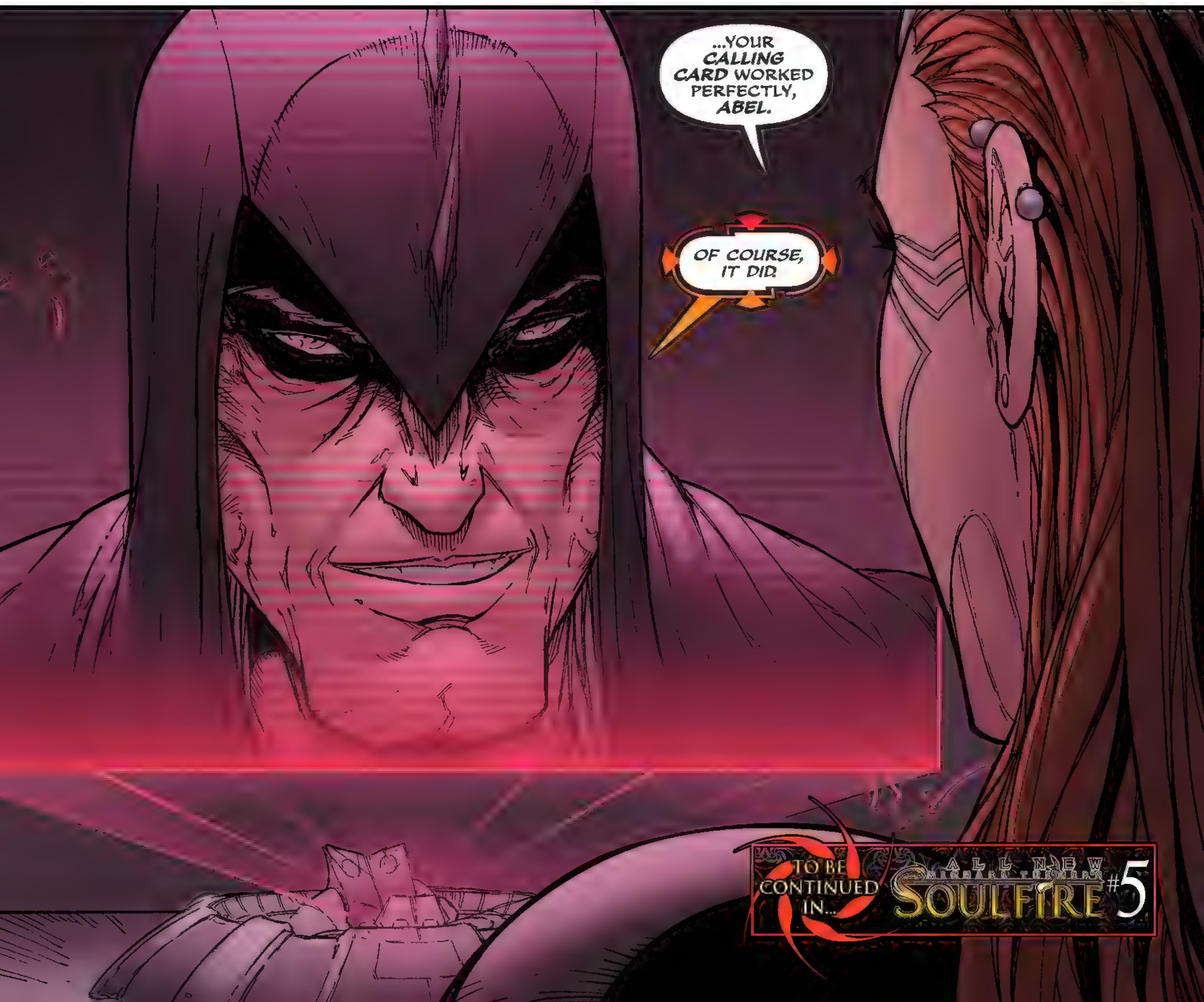


LATE NIGHT.

COULD
HAVE BEEN
EVEN *LATER*, BUT
HE TURNED ME
DOWN.

POOR GIRL.
YOU'LL GET OVER
IT, I'M SURE.

I THINK I
JUST DID. AS
FOR YOU...



...YOUR
CALLING
CARD WORKED
PERFECTLY,
ABEL.

OF COURSE,
IT DID.

TO BE
CONTINUED
IN...

ALL NEW
MICHAEL TUCKER
SOULFIRE #5



j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

10
FEB
10

#5

COVER A

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE



Kyle Ritten

aspencomics.com



By JIM KRUL • Art by KEN MARION • Colors by ERICK ARCINIEGA • Script by JOSH REED

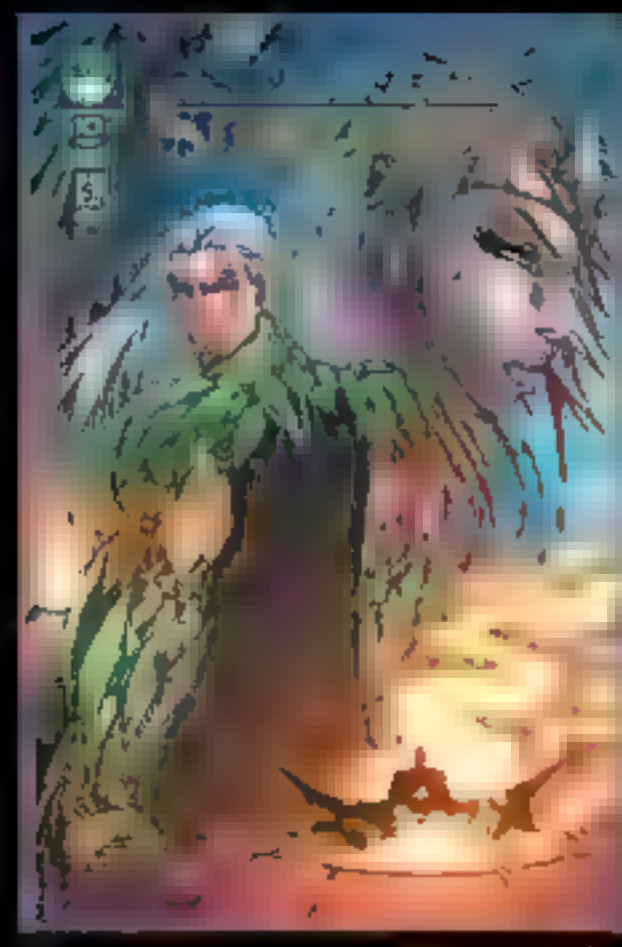
10
FOR
10

#5
COVER B

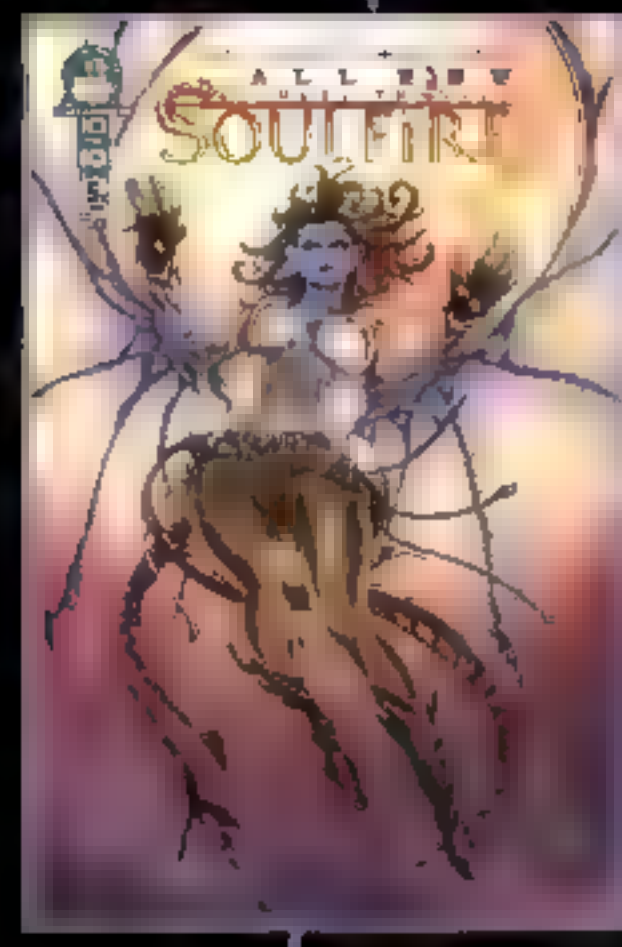
ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™



W
3
CH



A
DIRECT EDITION
BY -V KEN MARION
& KYLE RITTER



B
SPECIAL RESERVED EDITION
BY -PAOLO PANTALENA
& SABINE RICH

J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

soulfire created by michael turner

"Bad To The Bone"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

MALIKAI AND SONIA DISCOVERED THAT GABRIEL'S VOICE HAD MORE THAN JUST FAITH TO RELY ON AS THE APPEARANCE OF MICHAEL, A MAN WITH WINGS AND APPARENT MAGIC, CREATED A FRESZY AMONGST THEIR DEVOTED FOLLOWERS. MEASWHILE AT THE PANDEMORION THE COMPETITION TURNED DEADLY AS THE GLADIATOR BRIX FOUND HIMSELF VOID OF ANY CONTROL OF HIS TECH HEAVY LIMBS, CAUSING HIS MATCH TO TURN FATAL, AND HEROIST WITH ONLY ONE PERSON TO BLAME - THE TECH MASTERMIND, ABE...

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issue 5

MAY 2014. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite, 111, Culver City, CA 90230, The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and its logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

FOR ASPEN:
Founder: MICHAEL TURNER
Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD
Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO
Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ
Editorial Assistants: JOSH REED, ANDREA SHEA
Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS
Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL
AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP
Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

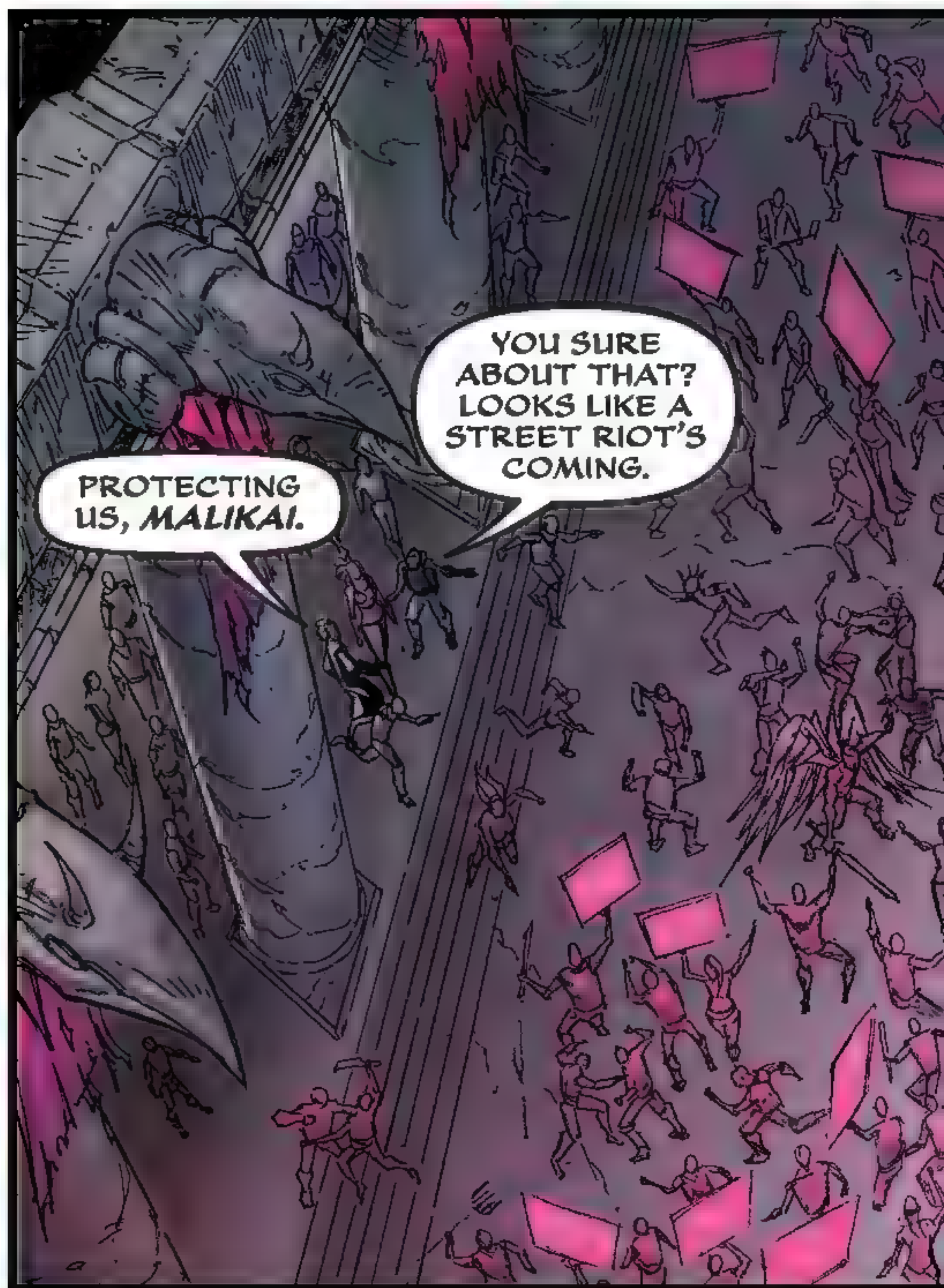
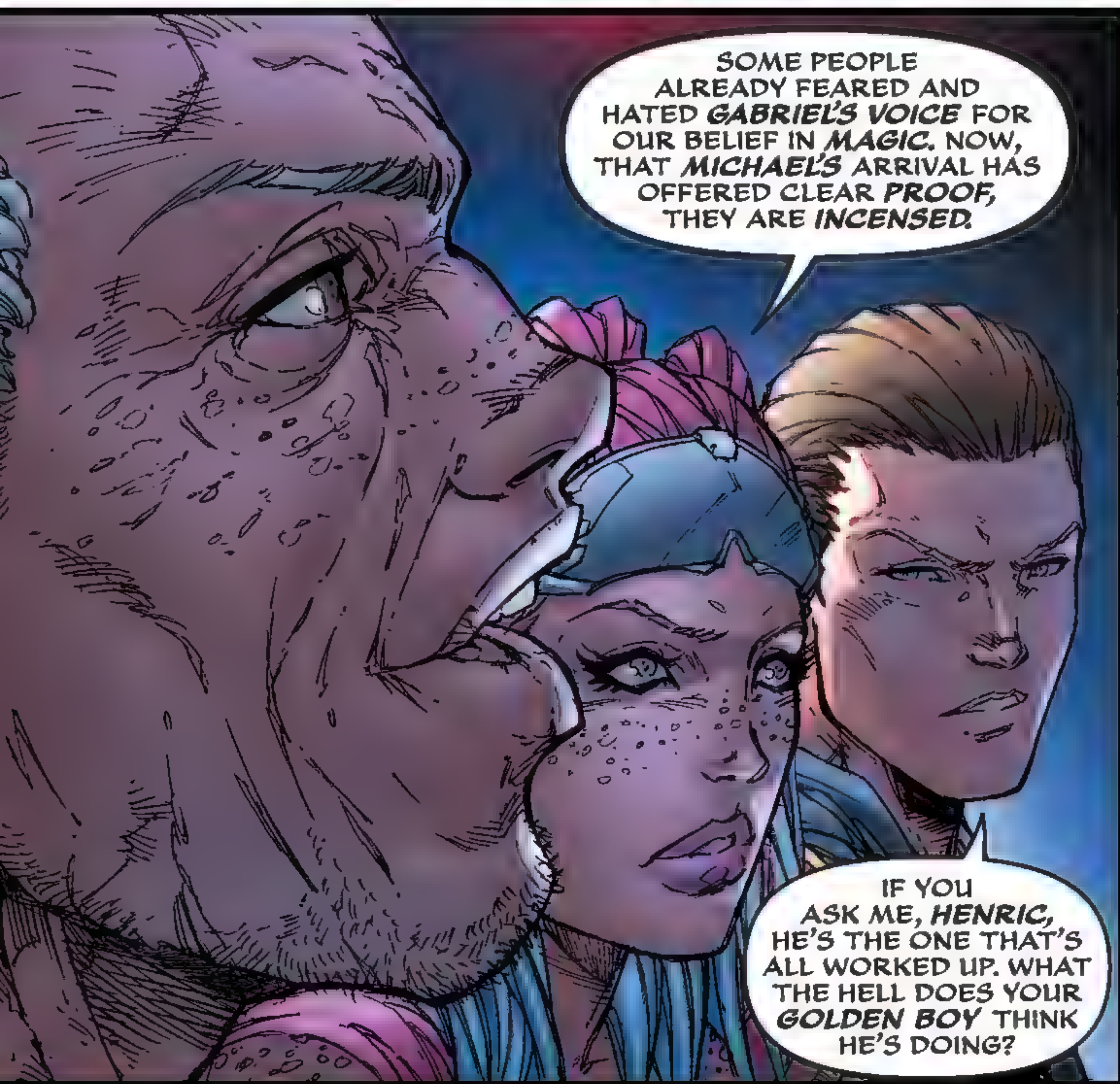
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

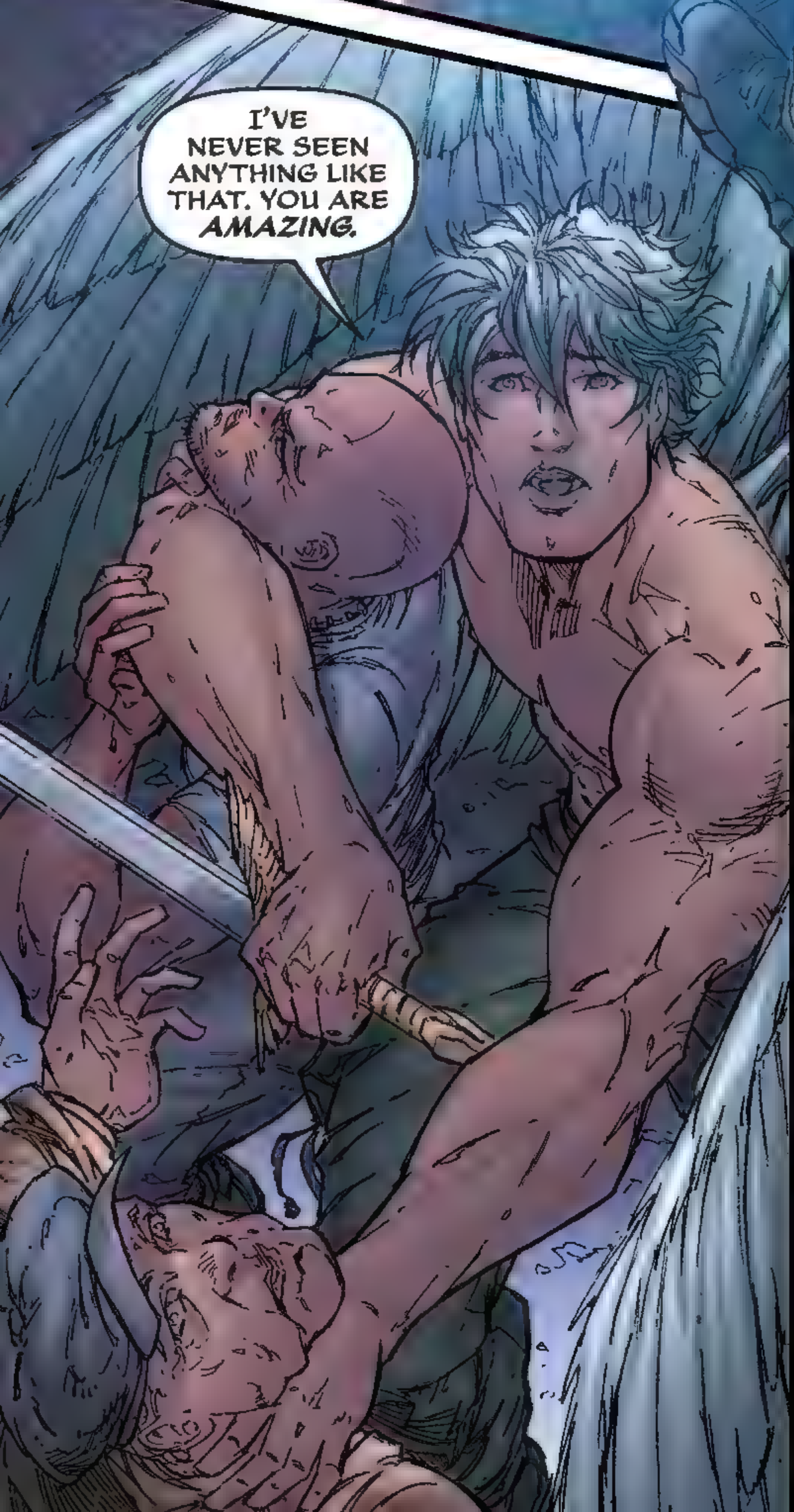
FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

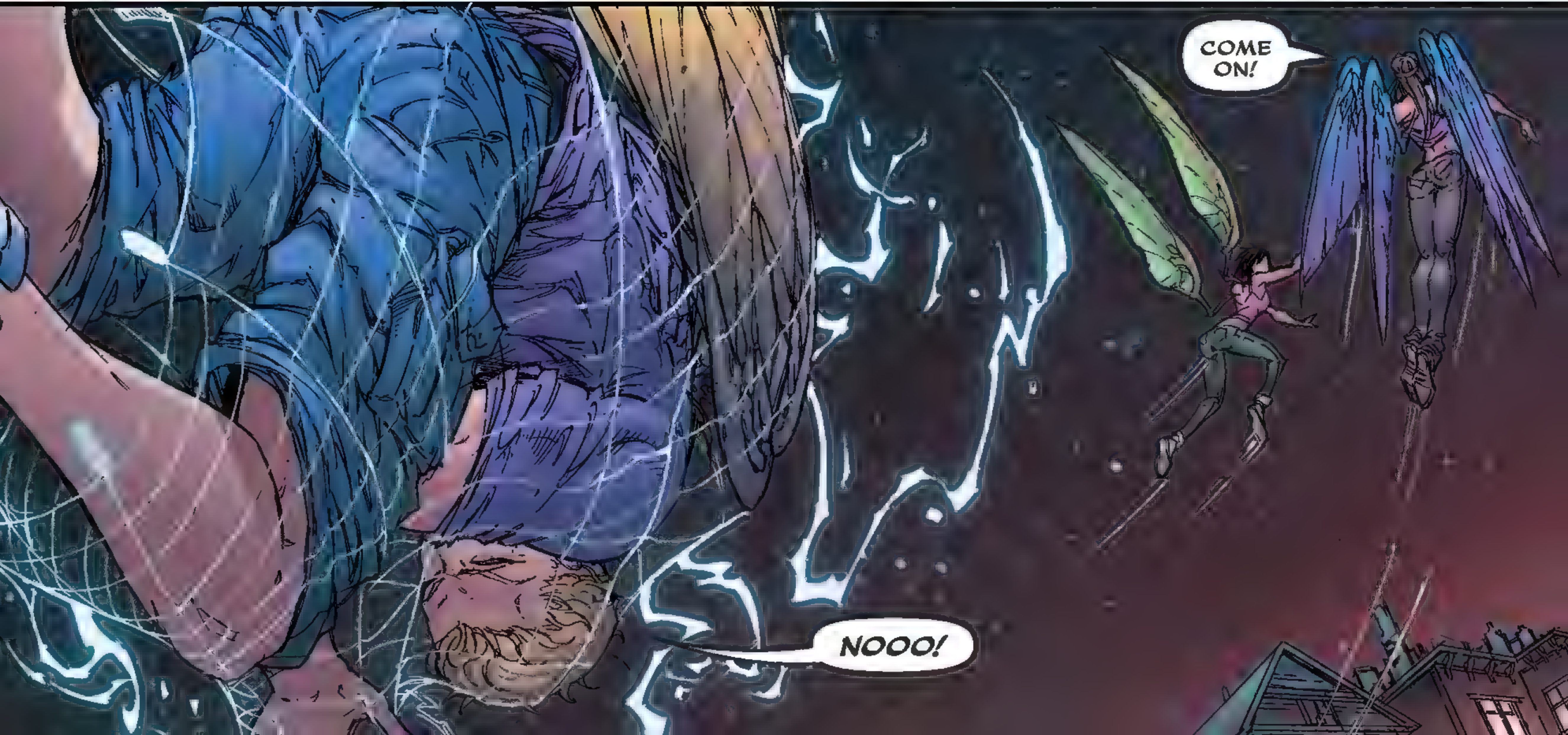
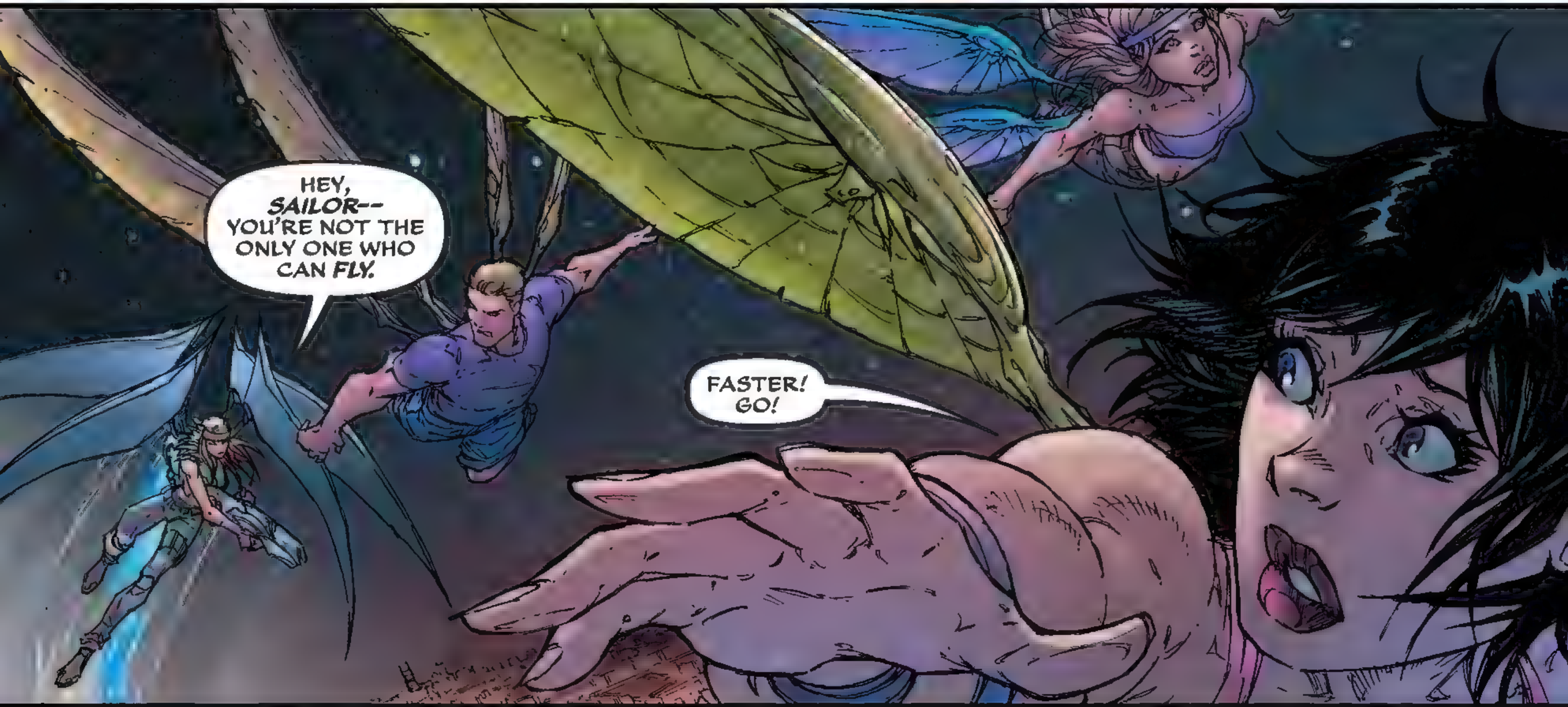
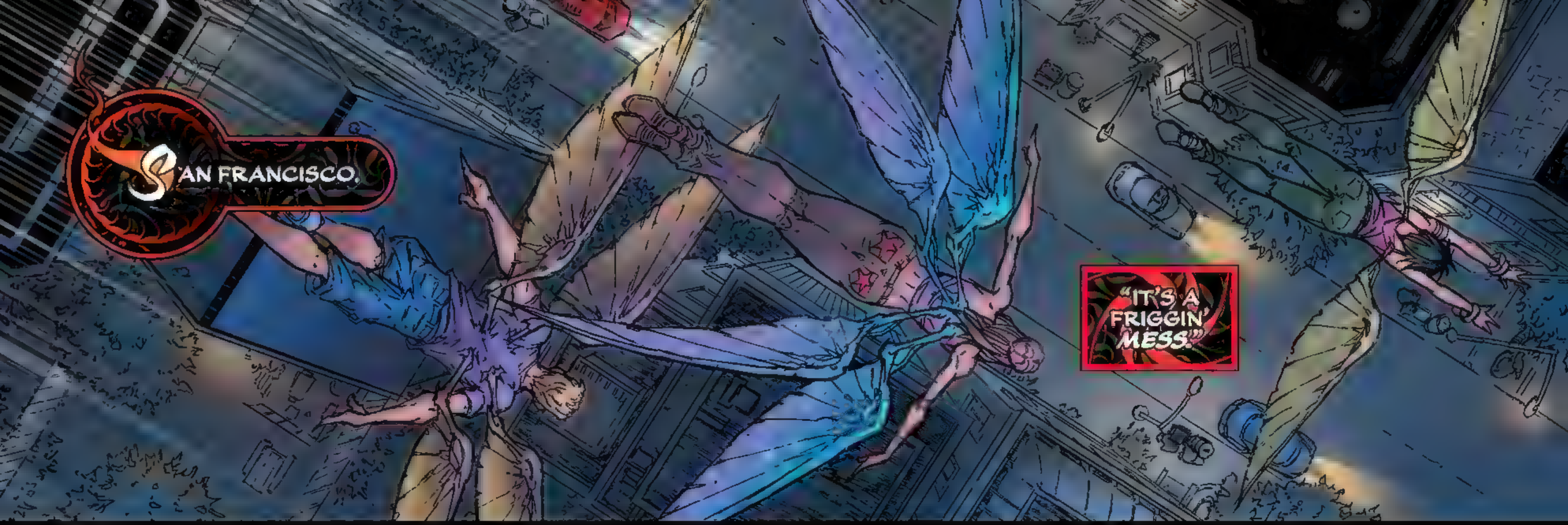
FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@CFLOYSTUDIO.COM]

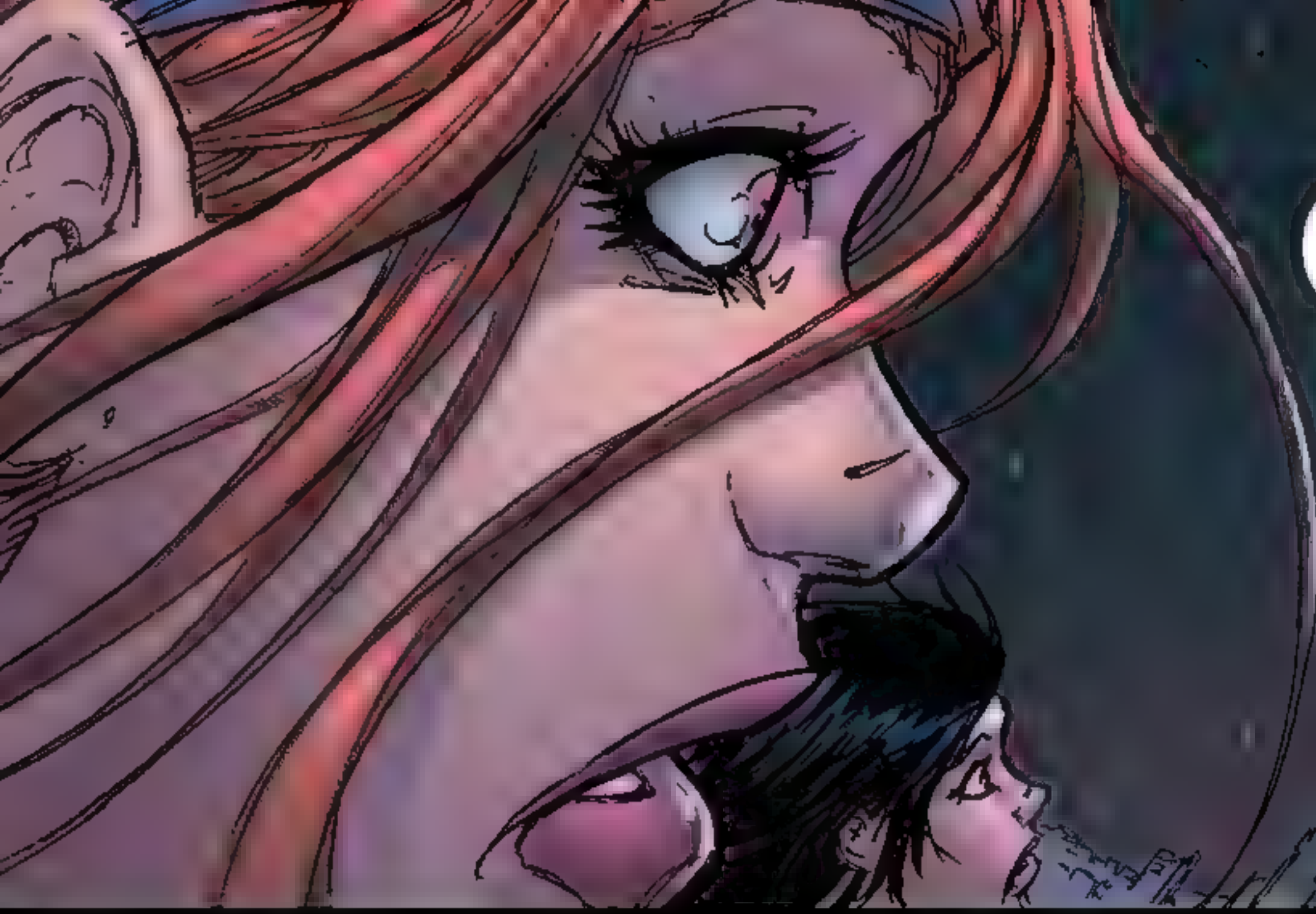




YEAH,
I DO.







WHERE DO
YOU THINK YOU'RE
GOING?



LEAVE US
ALONE!

NOT EVEN
CLOSE.



HERE---
LET ME
SHOW YOU
HOW IT'S
DONE.



IF
I WERE
YOU--

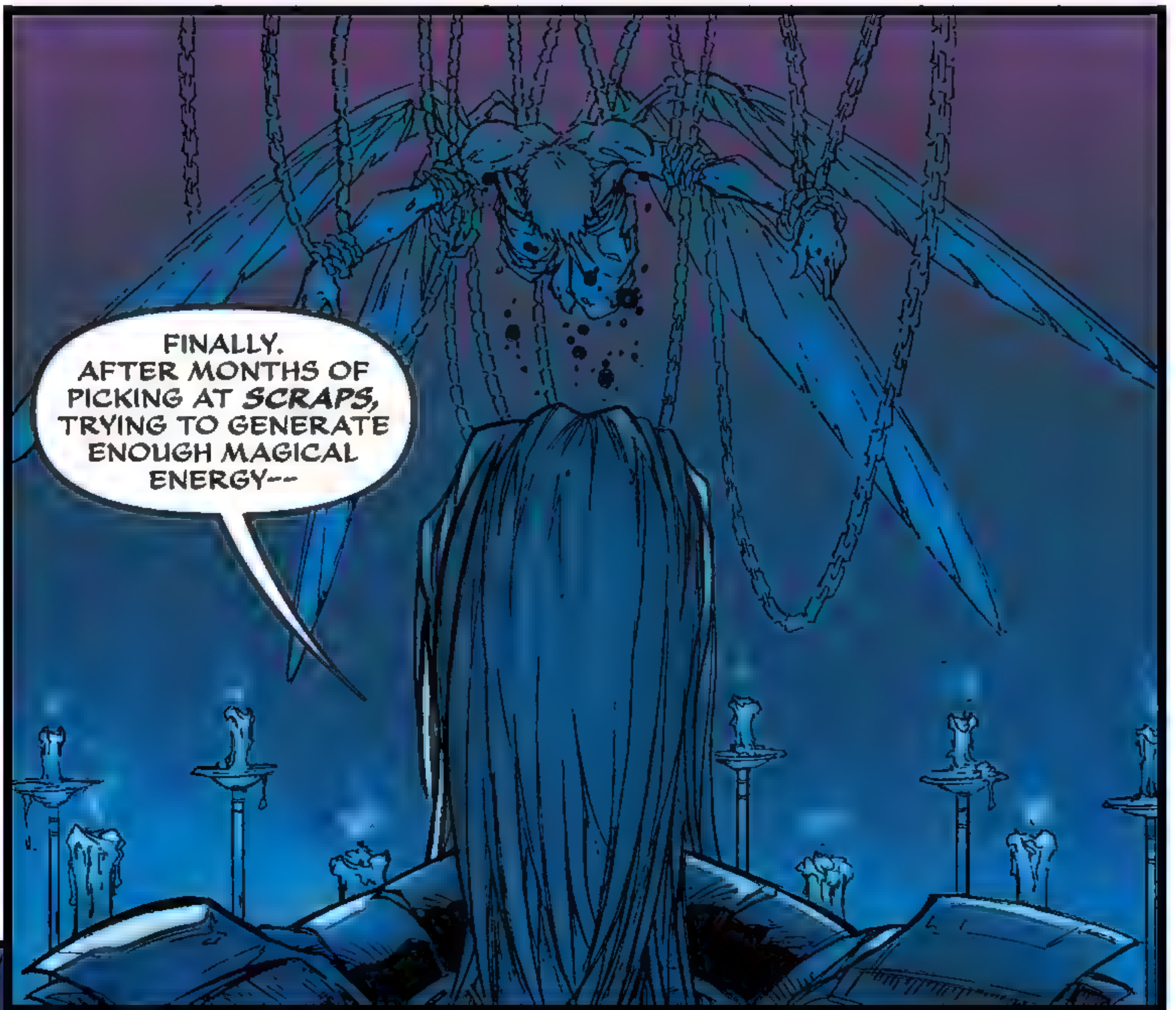


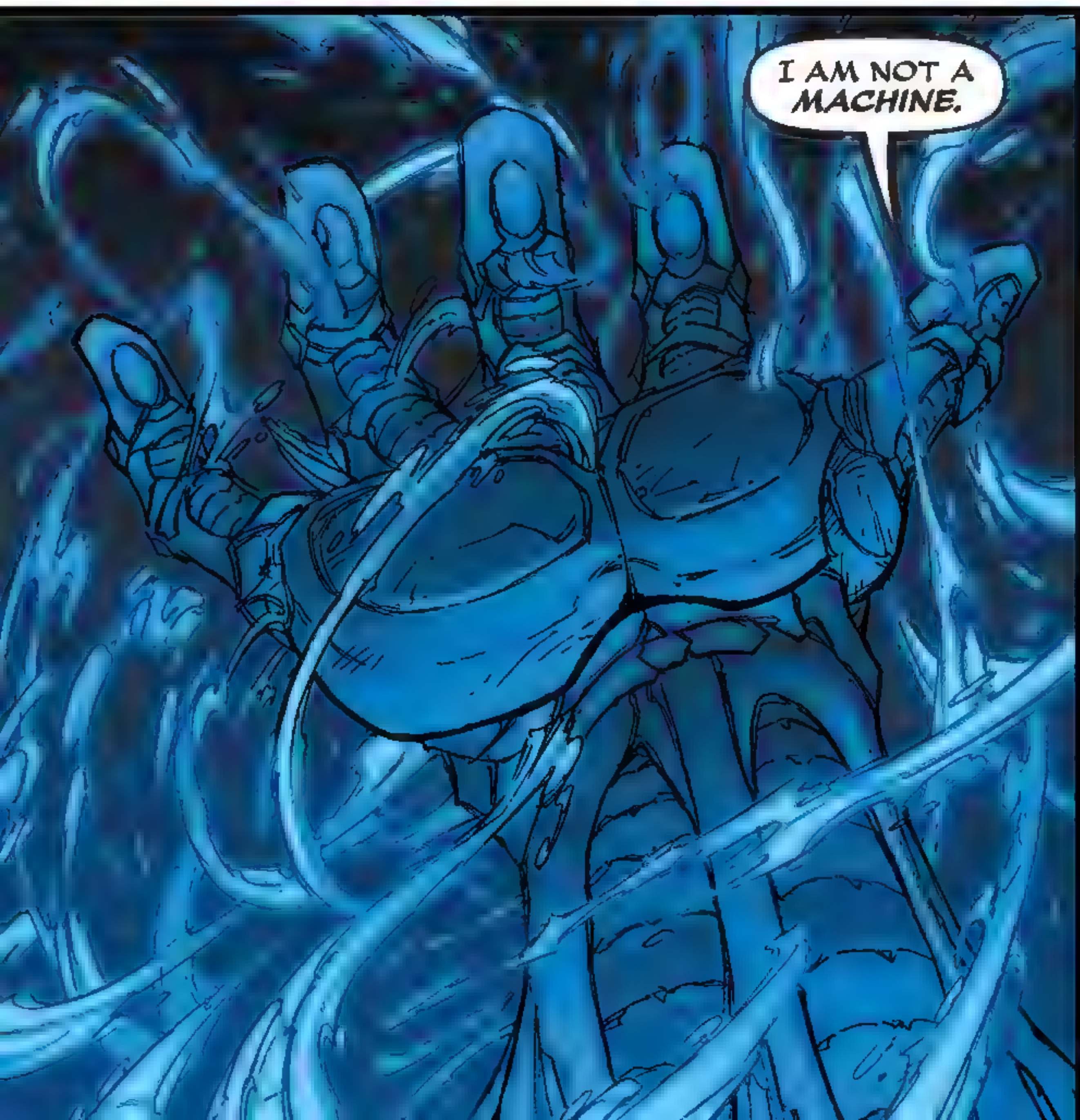
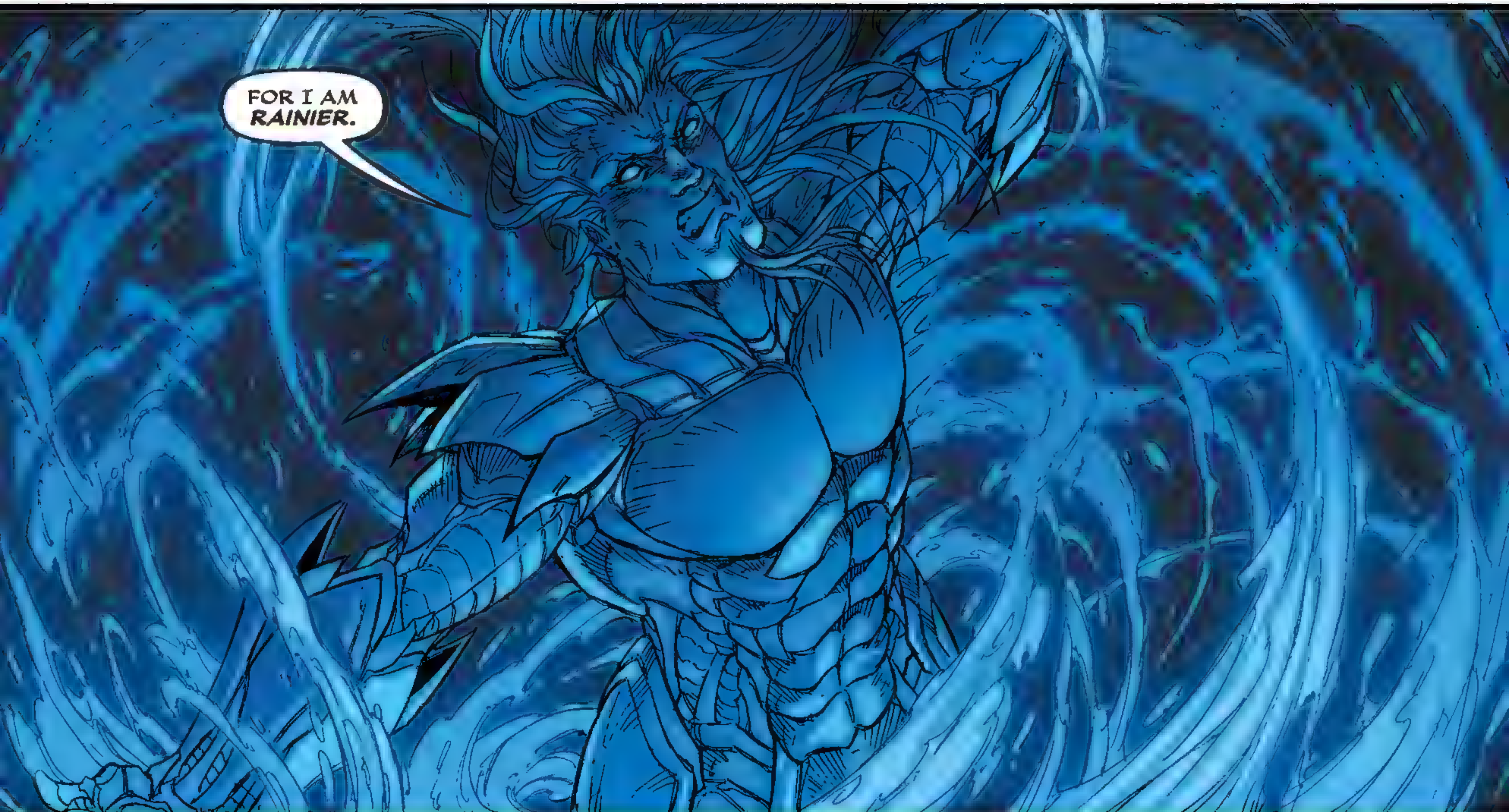
--I'D GET
LOST, LITTLE
ONE.

AND LEARN
TO USE YOUR SPECIAL
ABILITIES TO PROTECT
YOURSELF.



OR ELSE THIS
WORLD WILL EAT
YOU ALIVE.

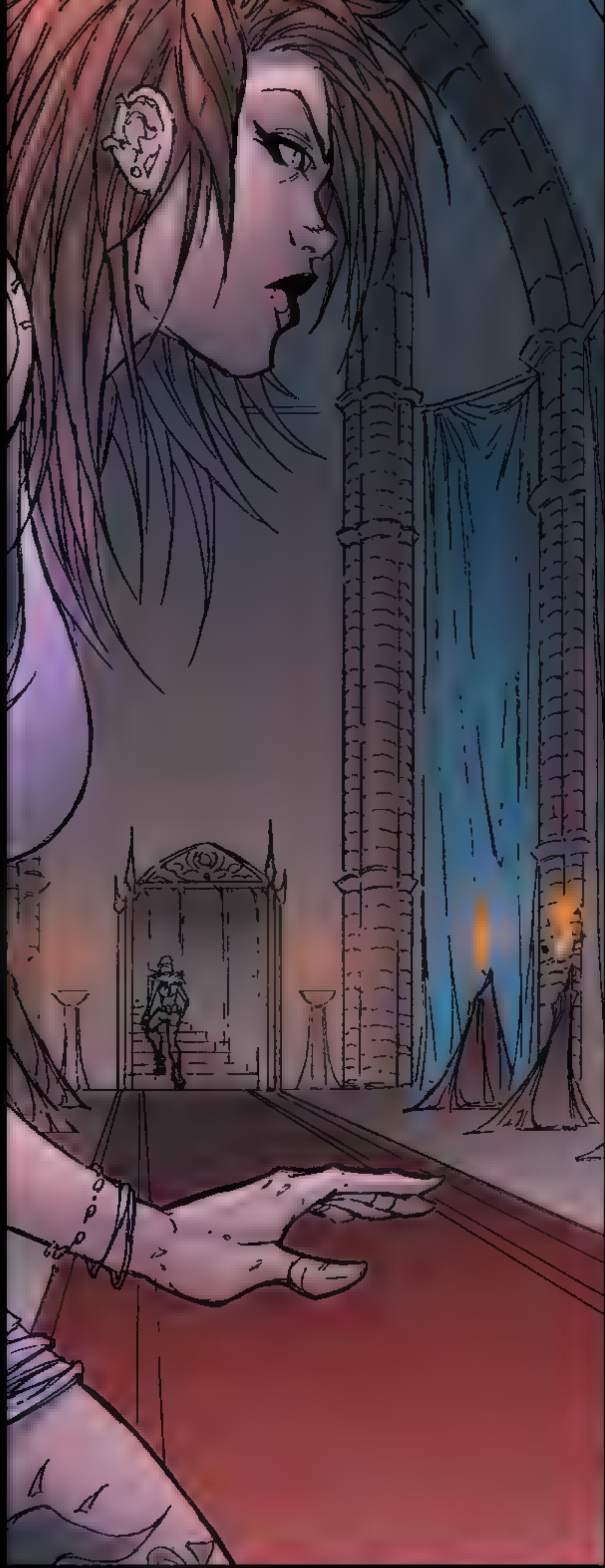




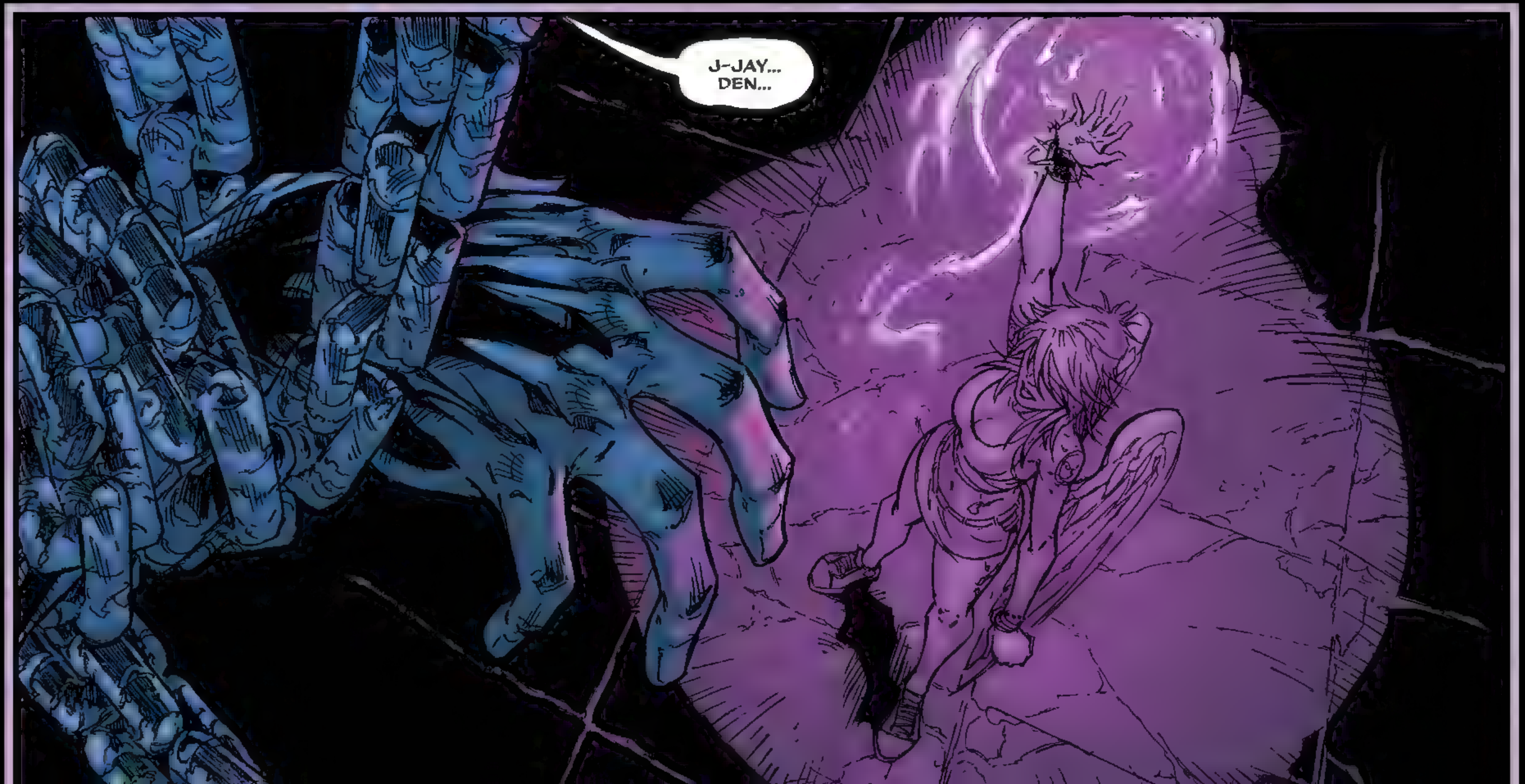
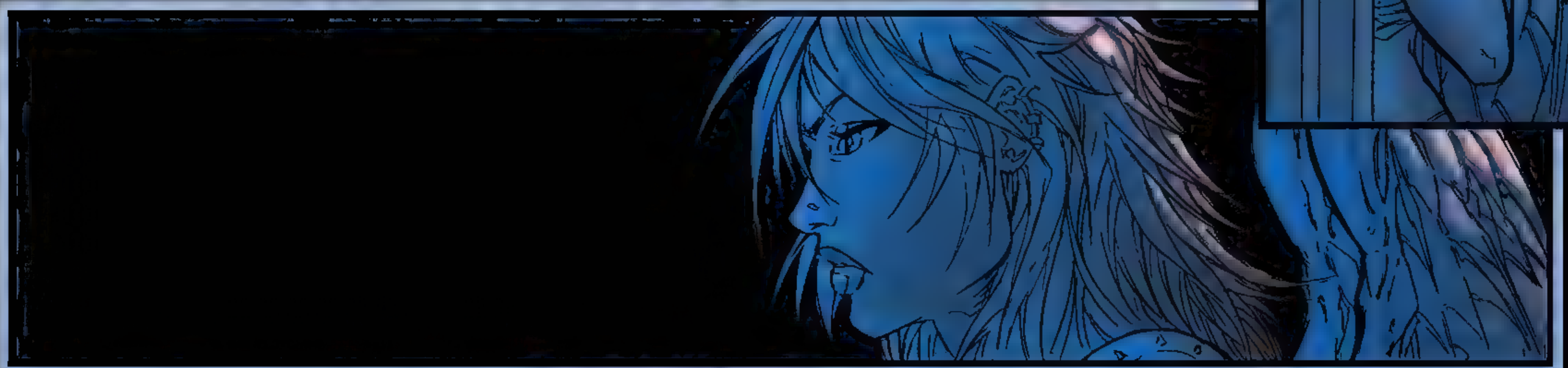
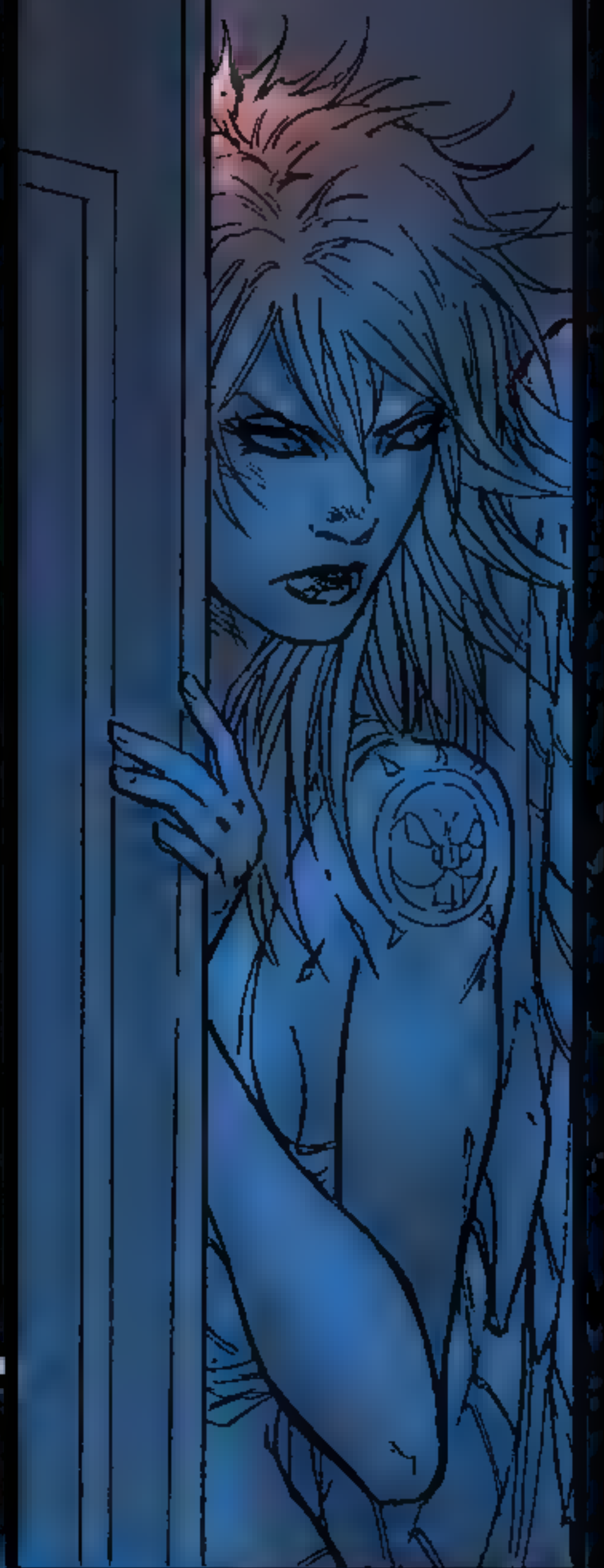


I AM A
NAITALI.

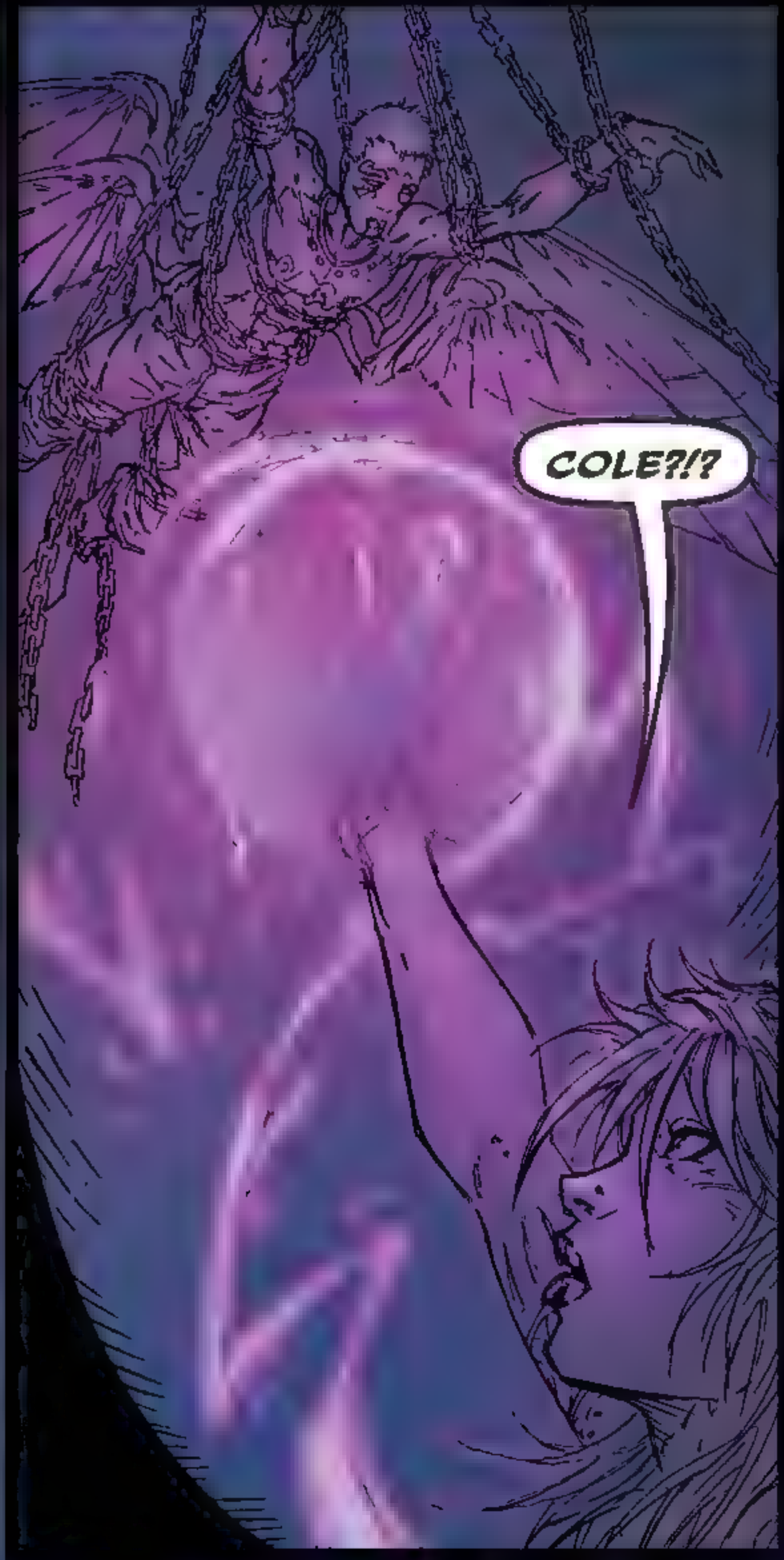
LATER.



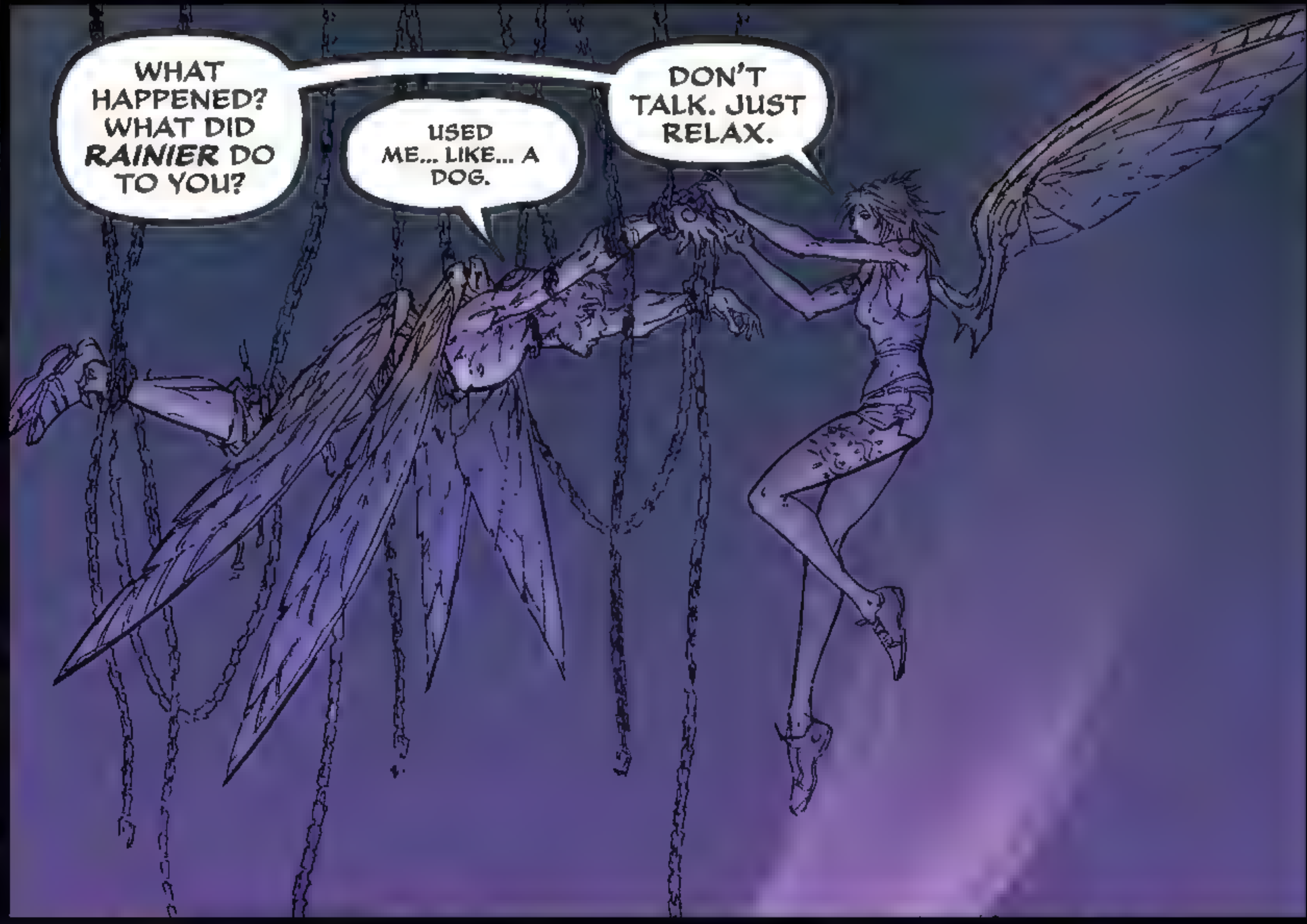
OKAY, RAINIER. WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FROM ME?



J-JAY... DEN...



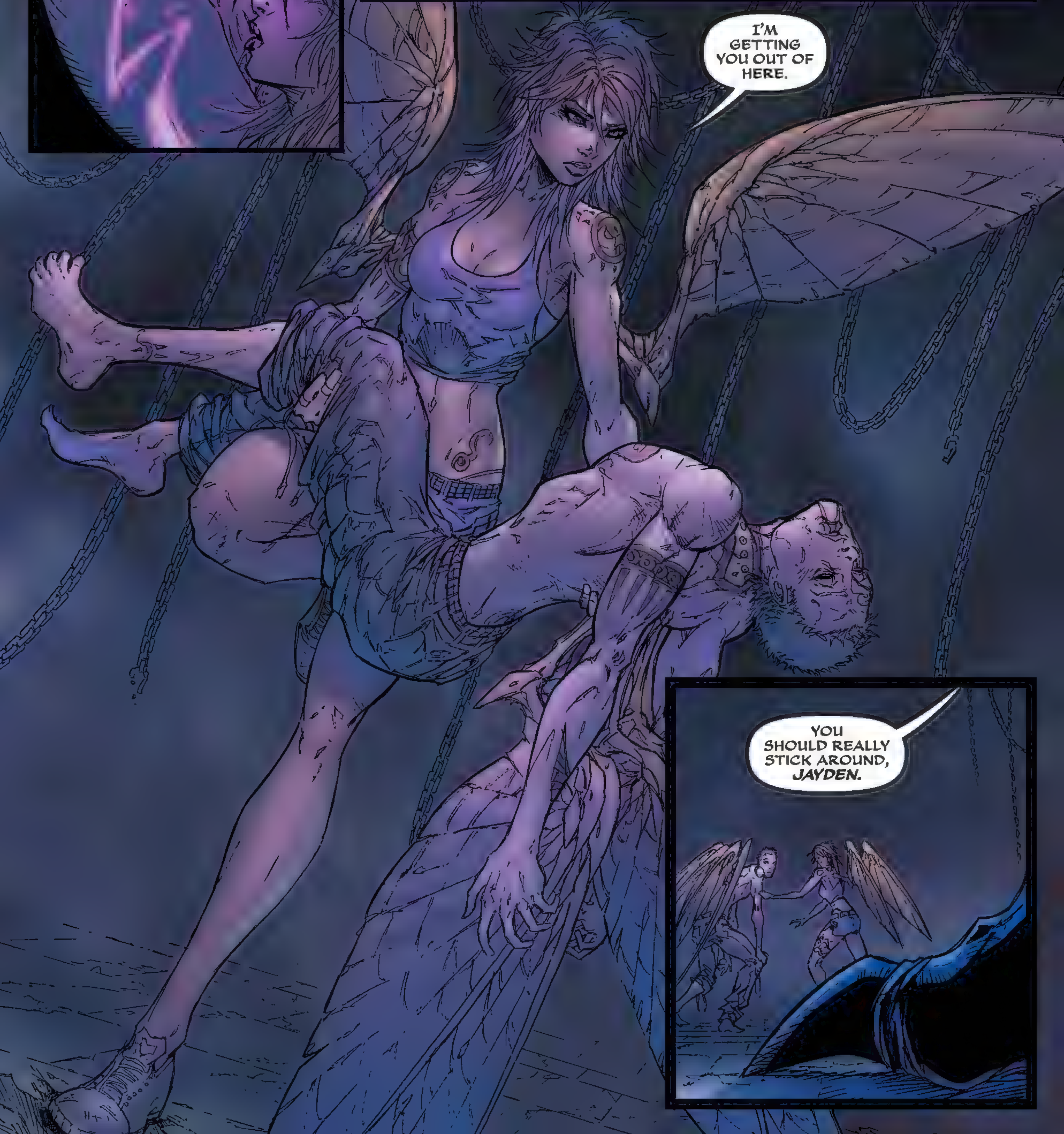
COLE?!?



WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHAT DID
RAINIER DO
TO YOU?

USED
ME... LIKE... A
DOG.

DON'T
TALK. JUST
RELAX.



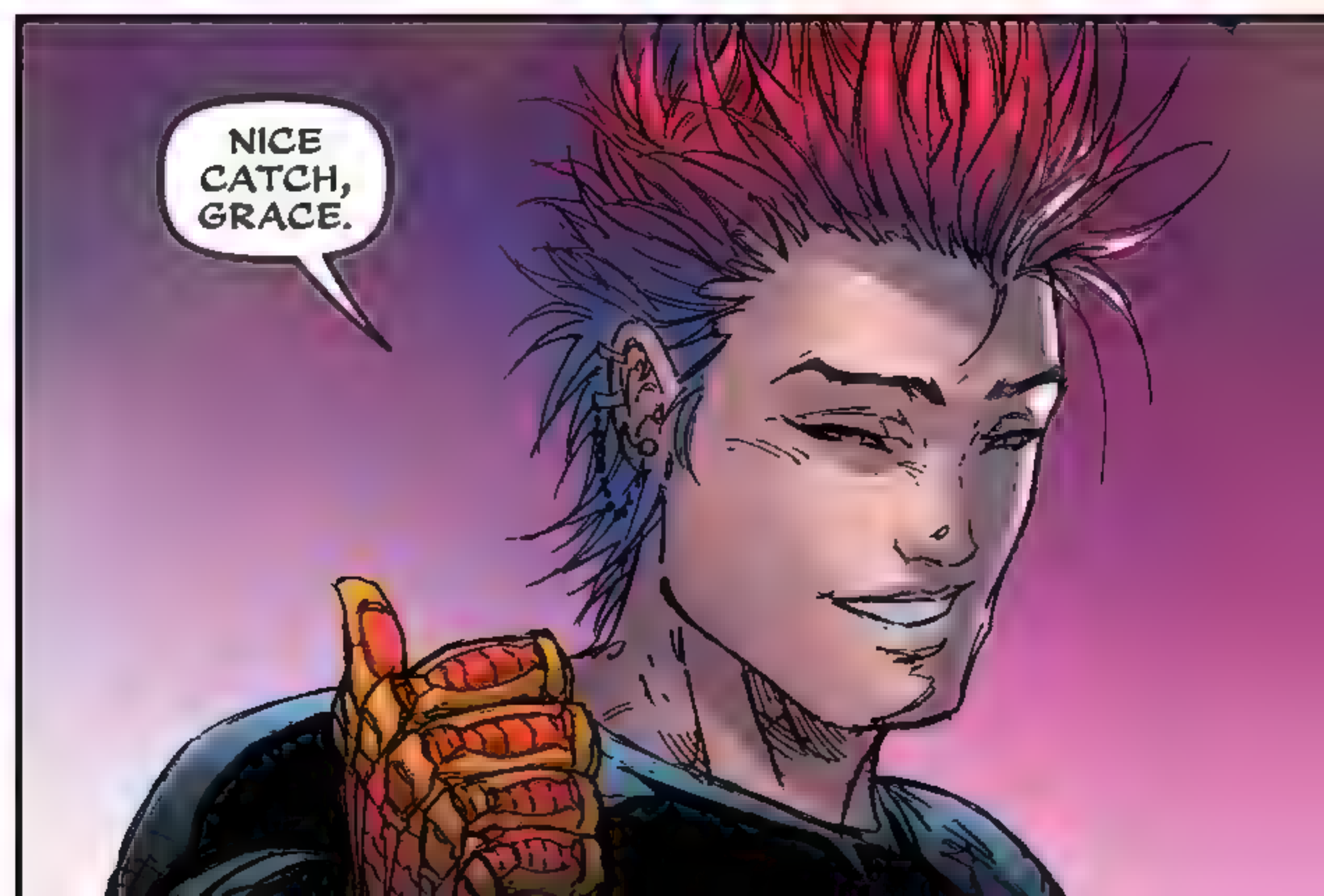
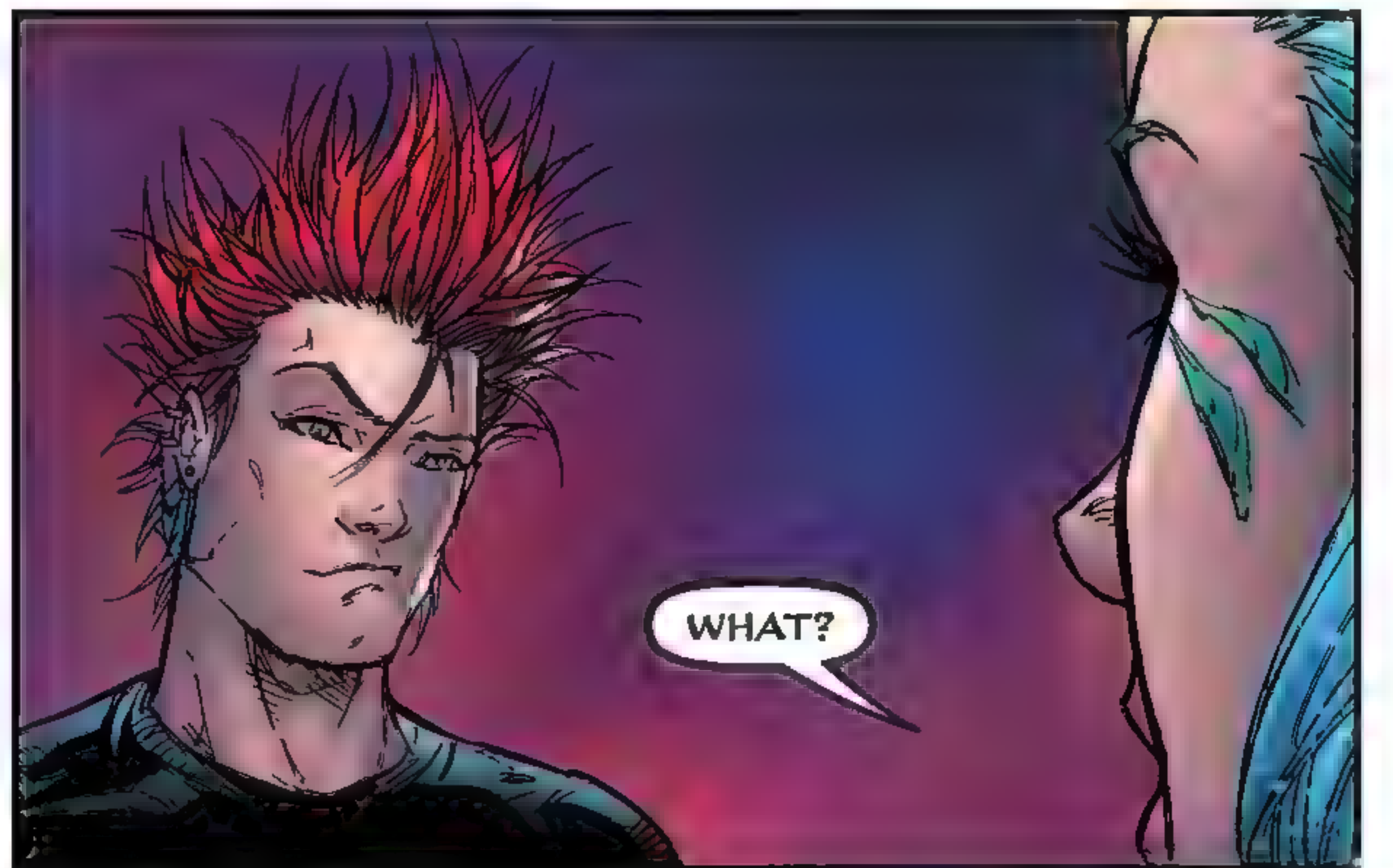
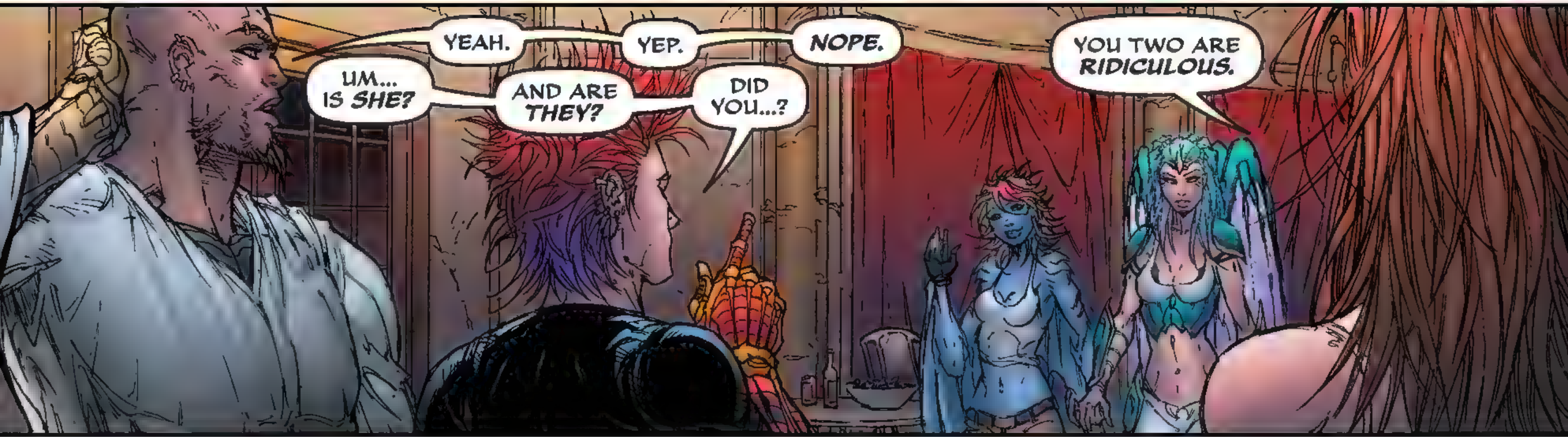
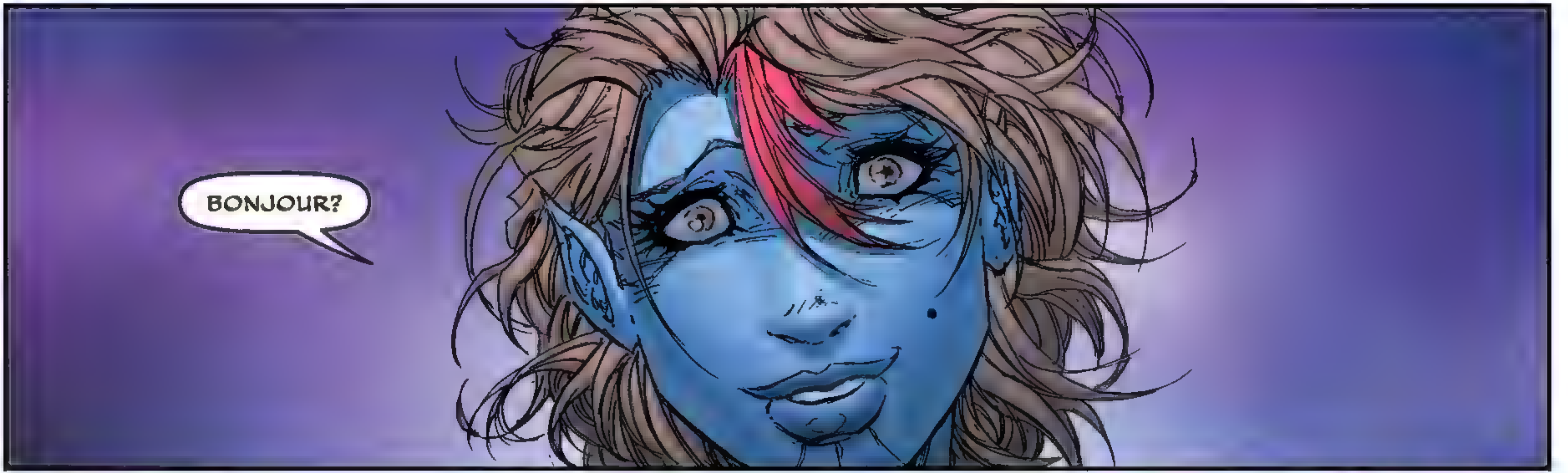
I'M
GETTING
YOU OUT OF
HERE.



YOU
SHOULD REALLY
STICK AROUND,
JAYDEN.

THINGS
ARE ABOUT TO GET
INTERESTING.







WHERE ARE MALIKAI AND SONIA? WEREN'T YOU GUYS TOGETHER?

THEY WANTED SOME TIME ALONE.



AND, GRACE NEEDED A BREAK FROM BABYSITTING.



THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT WE'VE GOT A LITTLE SITUATION.

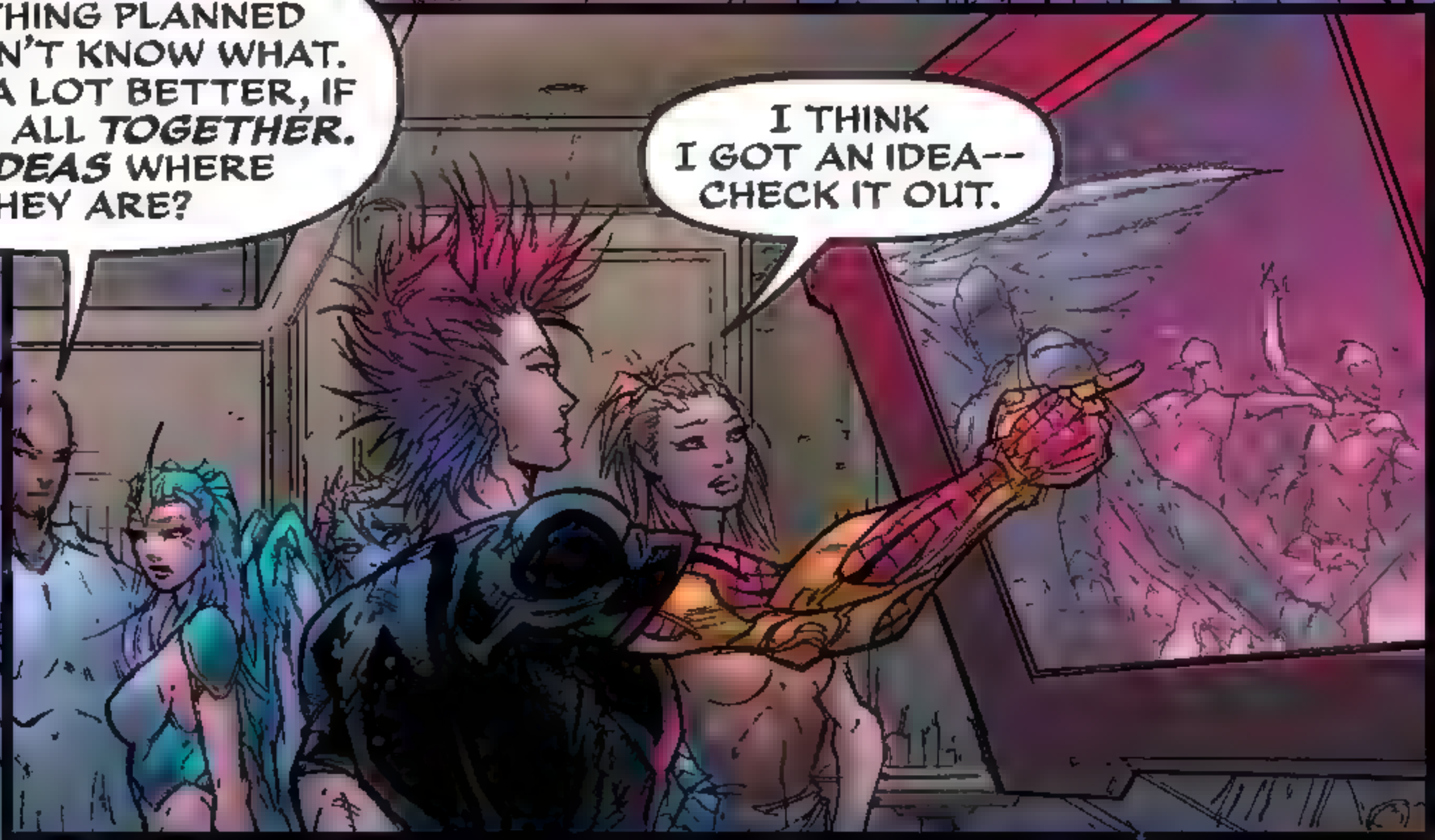
ABEL. HE'S BACK.



ABEL? ARE YOU SURE?



HE'S GOT SOMETHING PLANNED JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT. I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER, IF WE WERE ALL TOGETHER. ANY IDEAS WHERE THEY ARE?



I THINK I GOT AN IDEA-- CHECK IT OUT.



"AND IT LOOKS
LIKE HE'S GOT
A SITUATION
OF HIS OWN."

HEY!
WHAT'S
FRENCH FOR
"GET BENT,
CREEP?"

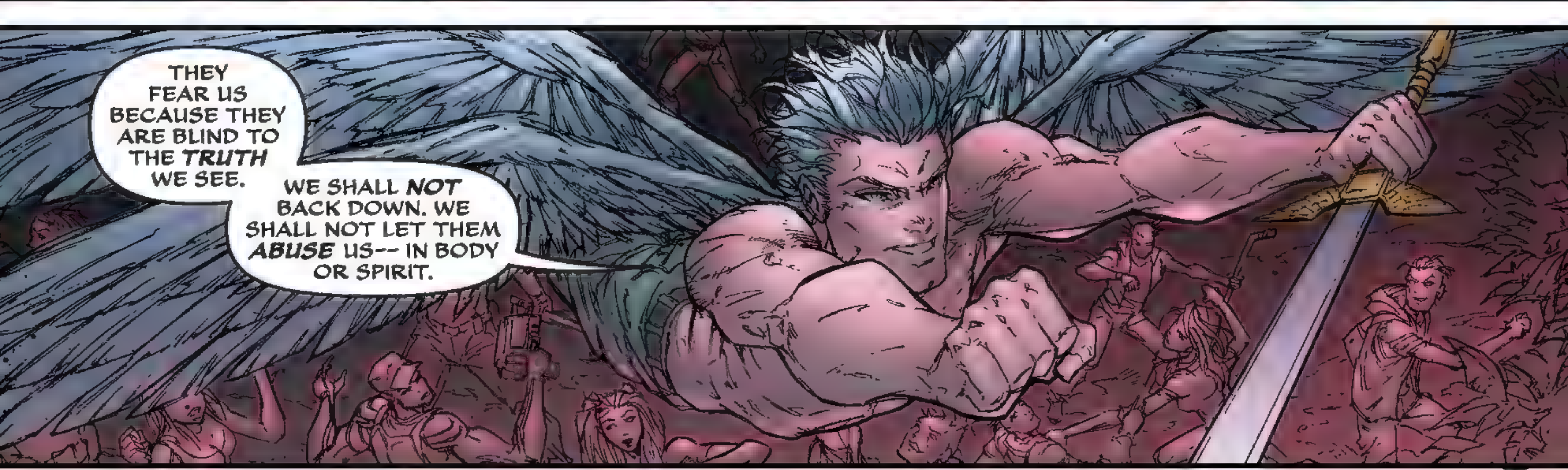
<RELEASE
HER.>

HEY PAL,
KEEP YOUR
HANDS TO
YOURSELF.

STOP.
PLEASE. WE
DON'T WANT
ANY MORE
VIOLENCE.

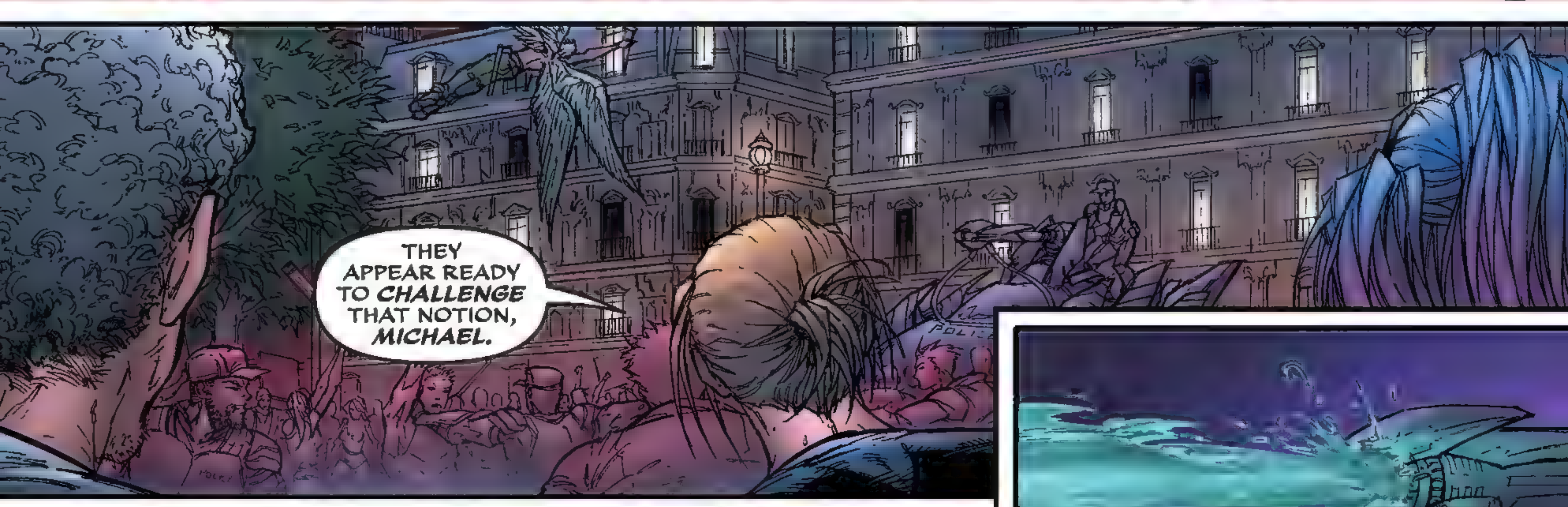


TELL
THAT TO MR.
HALO OVER
THERE.

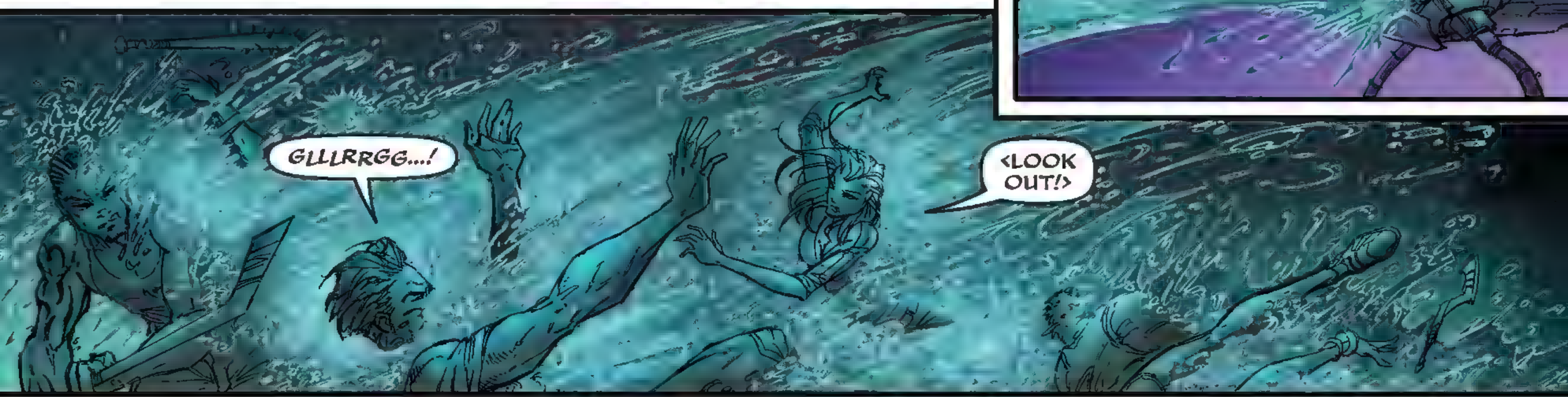
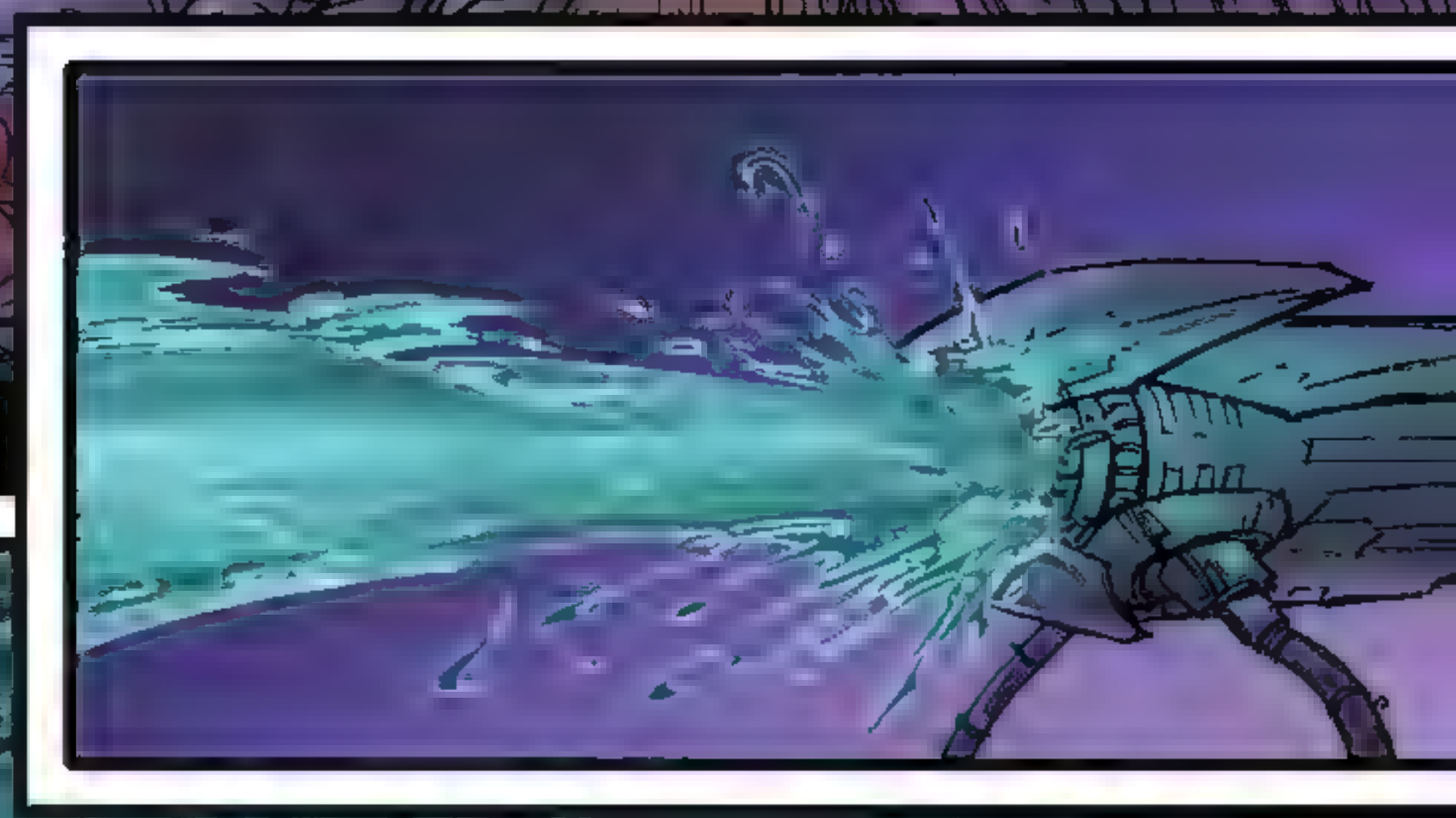


THEY
FEAR US
BECAUSE THEY
ARE BLIND TO
THE TRUTH
WE SEE.

WE SHALL NOT
BACK DOWN. WE
SHALL NOT LET THEM
ABUSE US-- IN BODY
OR SPIRIT.



THEY
APPEAR READY
TO CHALLENGE
THAT NOTION,
MICHAEL.



GILLRRGG...!

<LOOK
OUT!>



NICE.
TOGETHER,
WE CAN TURN
THE TIDE.



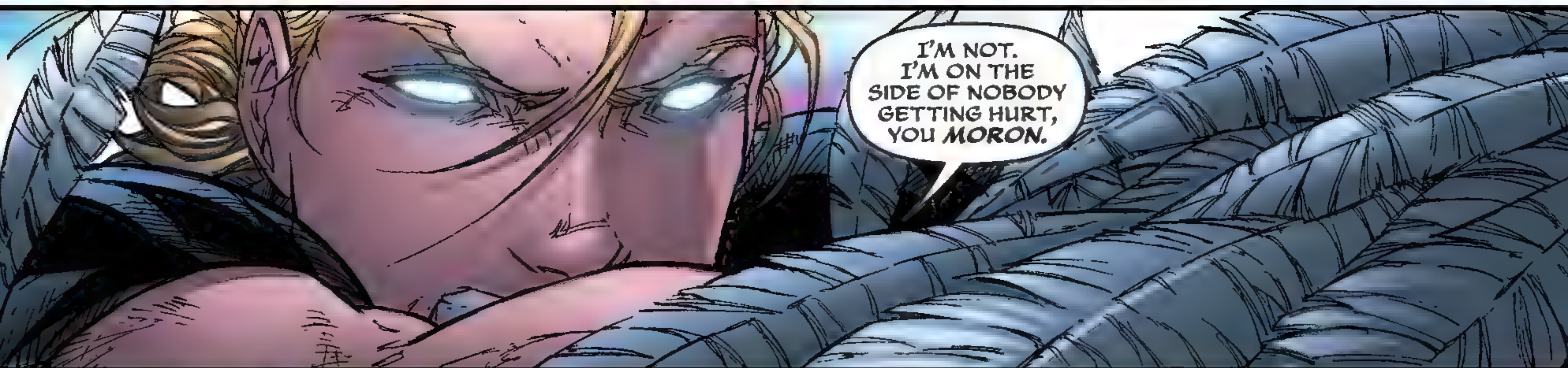
OH, I'M
TURNING IT.



STOP
STIRRING UP
TROUBLE.

GAAAHH!

HOW CAN
YOU BE ON THE
SIDE OF THE NON-
BELIEVERS?



I'M NOT.
I'M ON THE
SIDE OF NOBODY
GETTING HURT,
YOU MORON.



WAIT
A SEC.
ARE
YOU
KIDDING
ME?



YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FRAUD.

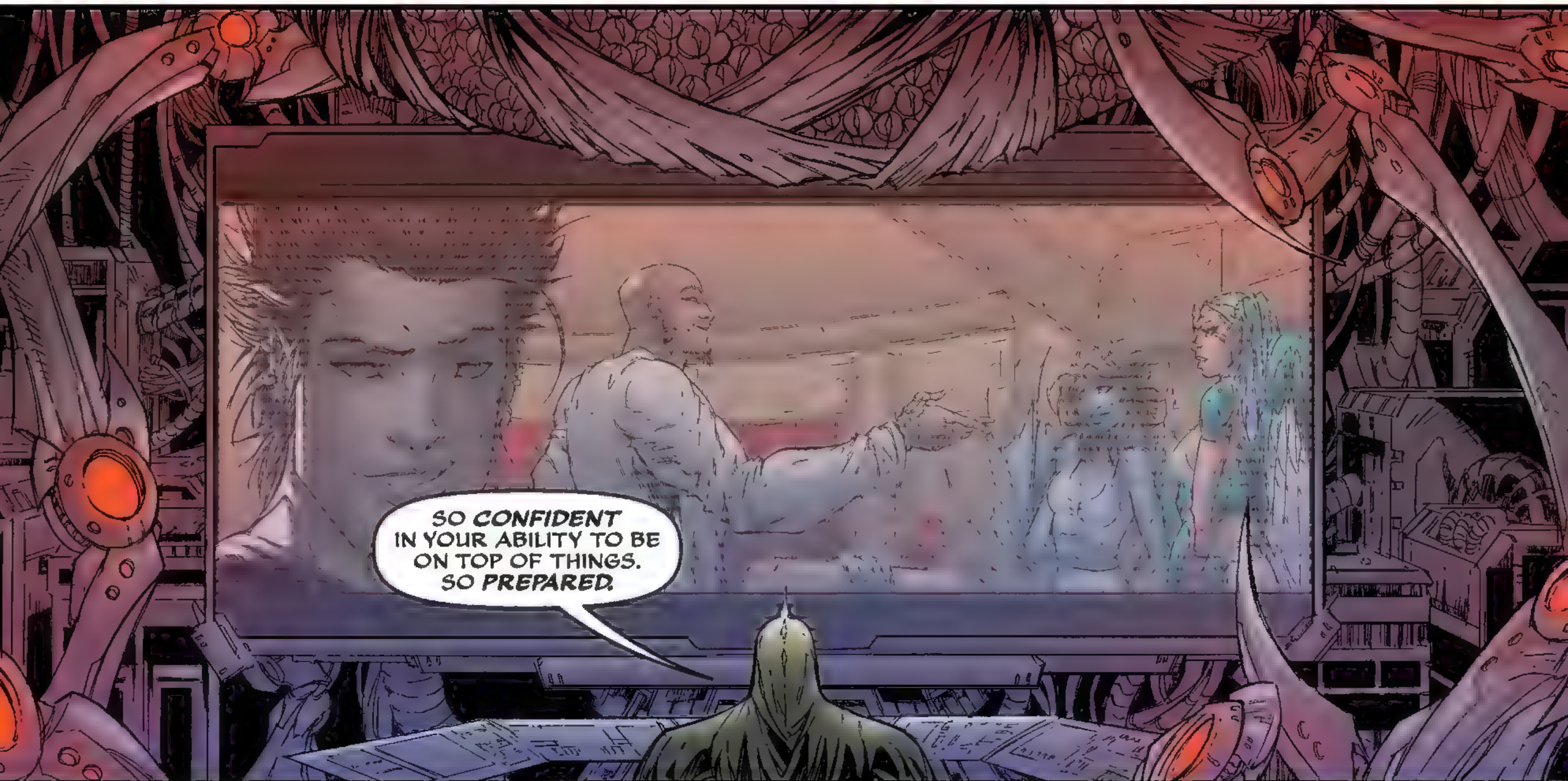
BZZZRRRTTT



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL NOW?



NO, NO, NO! NOT MY WINGS!





...THIS TIME,
I'VE GOT MY OWN
SURPRISE.

AND,
IT'S A **BIG**
ONE.

TO BE
CONTINUED
IN...

ALL NEW
MICHAEL TERRY
SOULFIRE #6



j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

10
FEB
10

#6

COVER A

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE





j.t. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED



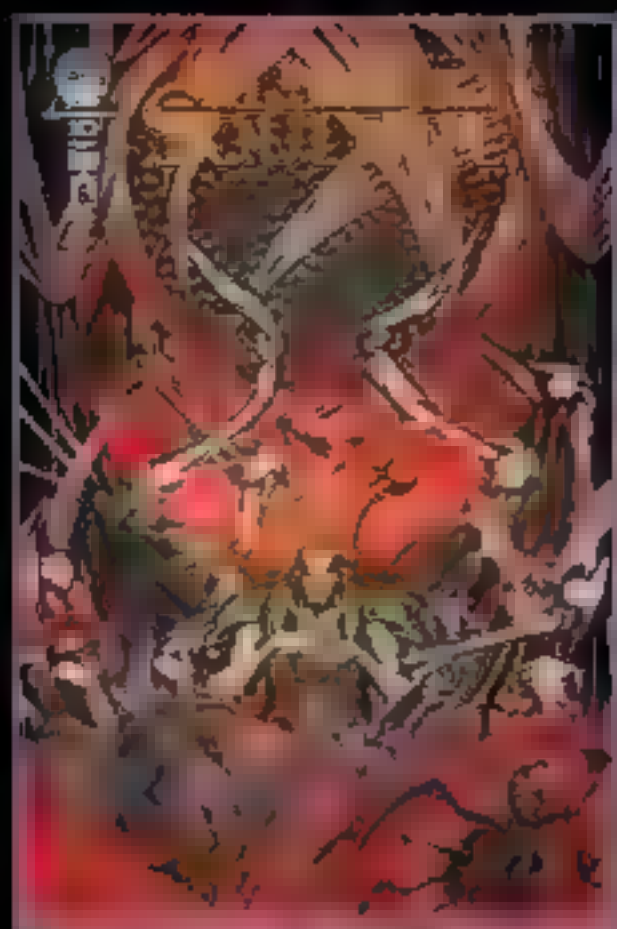
#6

COVER B

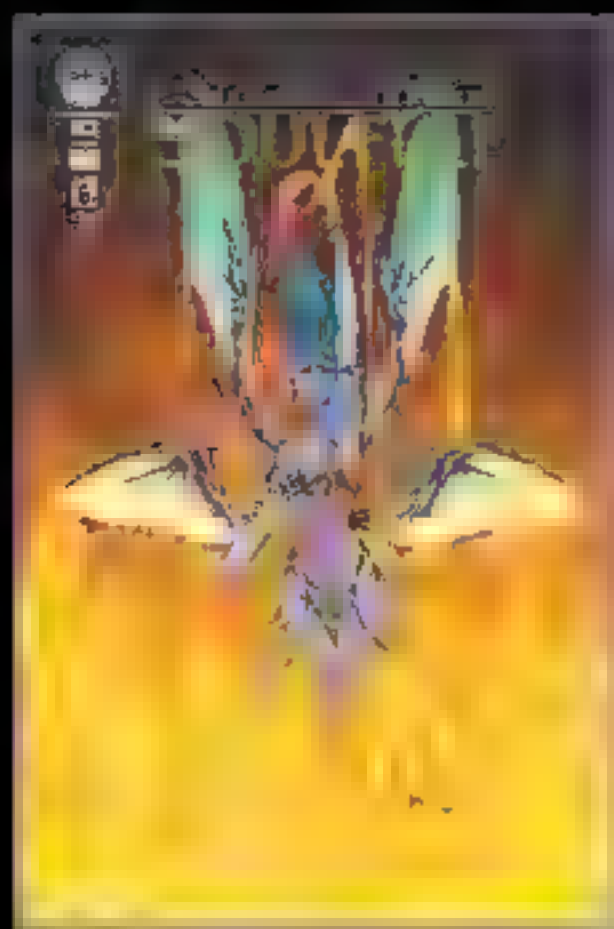
ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE



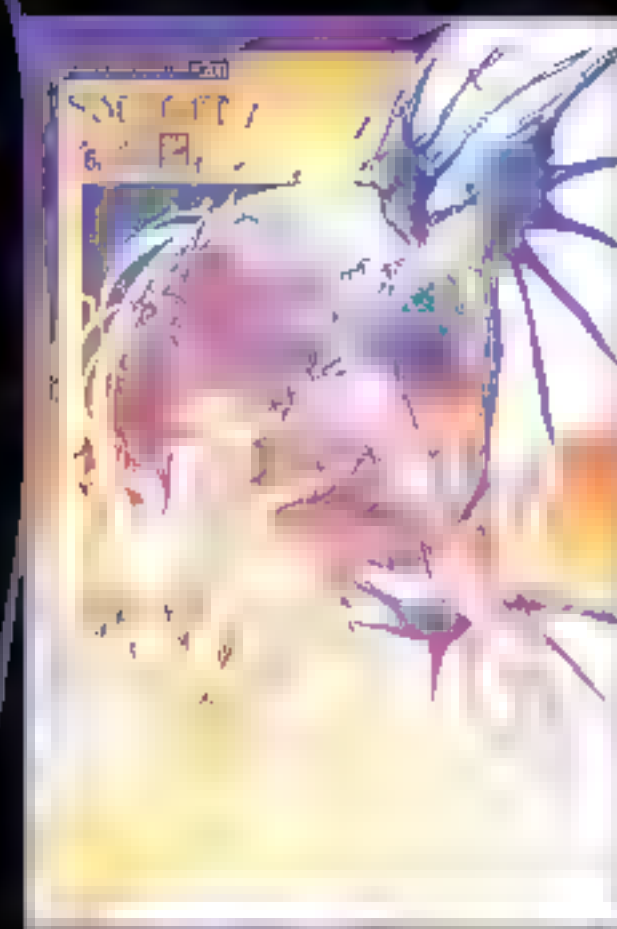
1/2013
J. Krul
v. Ken Marion
Erick Arciniega
Josh Reed



DIRECT EDITION
BY **V. KEN MARION**
& **WES HARTMAN**



DIRECT EDITION
BY **PASQUALE QUALANO**
& **PETER STEIGERWALD**



COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL
SAN DIEGO 2014 EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION OF 200
BY **GIUSEPPE CAFARO**
& **PETER STEIGERWALD**

**J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO**

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V. KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

& **JOHN ERICK**

digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

**A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE**

soulfire created by michael turner

"Character Flaws"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

RYDEN DISCOVERED THAT RAINIER HAS BEEN SIPHONING COLE'S MAGIC POWER IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN HIS OWN, BUT WAS TOO LATE TO RESCUE HIM, AS THE DARK LORD ARRIVED IN HIS TRUE AND DEADLY STATE AS A KNIGHT. MEANWHILE, MALIKAI FINALLY EXPOSED THE ALLEGED "ANGEL" MICHAEL AS NOTHING MORE THAN A FRAUD IN FRONT OF HIS FOLLOWERS, GABRIEL'S VOICE, AND GRACE INTRODUCED THE GROUP TO VANYSS, BUT THEIR WELCOME WAS CUT SHORT BY NEWS OF THE TECH ASSASSIN ABEL'S RETURN, AND THIS TIME HE HAS RAISED THE STAKES WITH HIS NEWEST CREATION...

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issue 6

JULY 2014. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite 111, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and the Michael Turner's Soulfire logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. Comic-Con® and the Comic-Con logo are registered trademarks of the San Diego Comic Convention. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-593-3636 and provide reference # RICH - 570064

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: **MICHAEL TURNER**

Co-Owner: **PETER STEIGERWALD**

Co-Owner/President: **FRANK MASTROMAURO**

VP/Editor in Chief: **VINCE HERNANDEZ**

VP/Design and Production: **MARK ROSLAN**

Editorial Assistants: **JOSH REED, ANDREA SHEA**

Production Assistant: **CHAZ RIGGS**

Office Manager: **MEGAN MADRIGAL**

AspenStore.com: **CHRIS RUPP**

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS

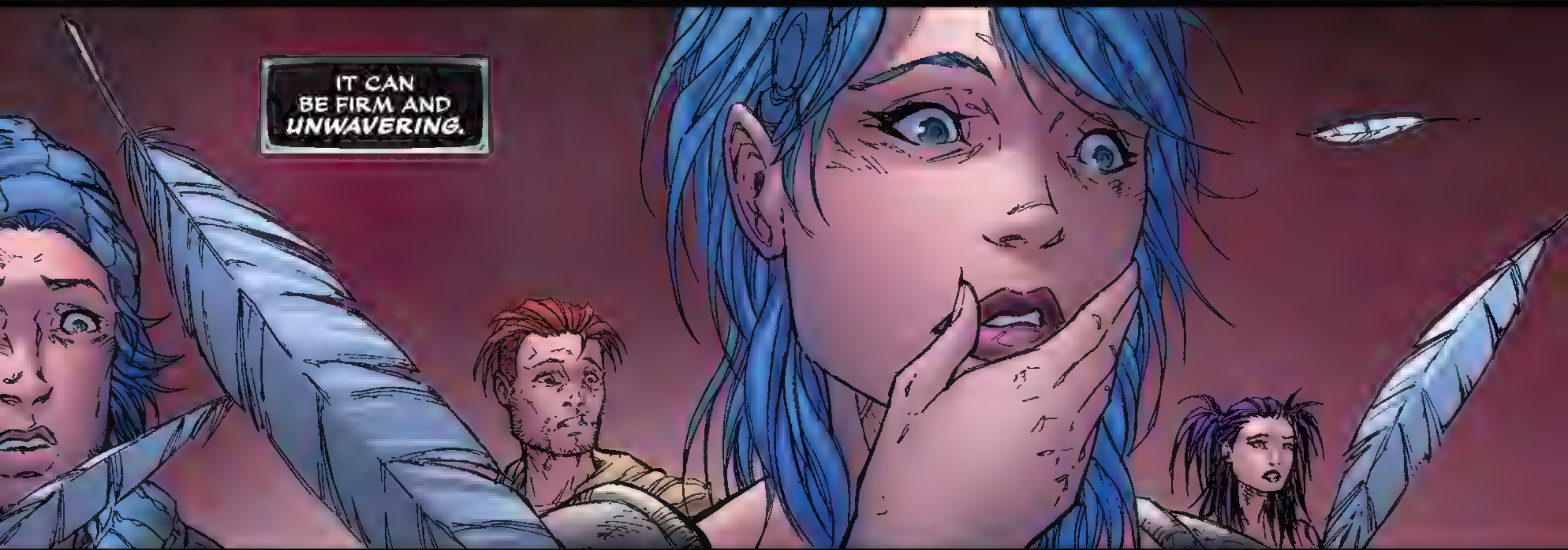
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

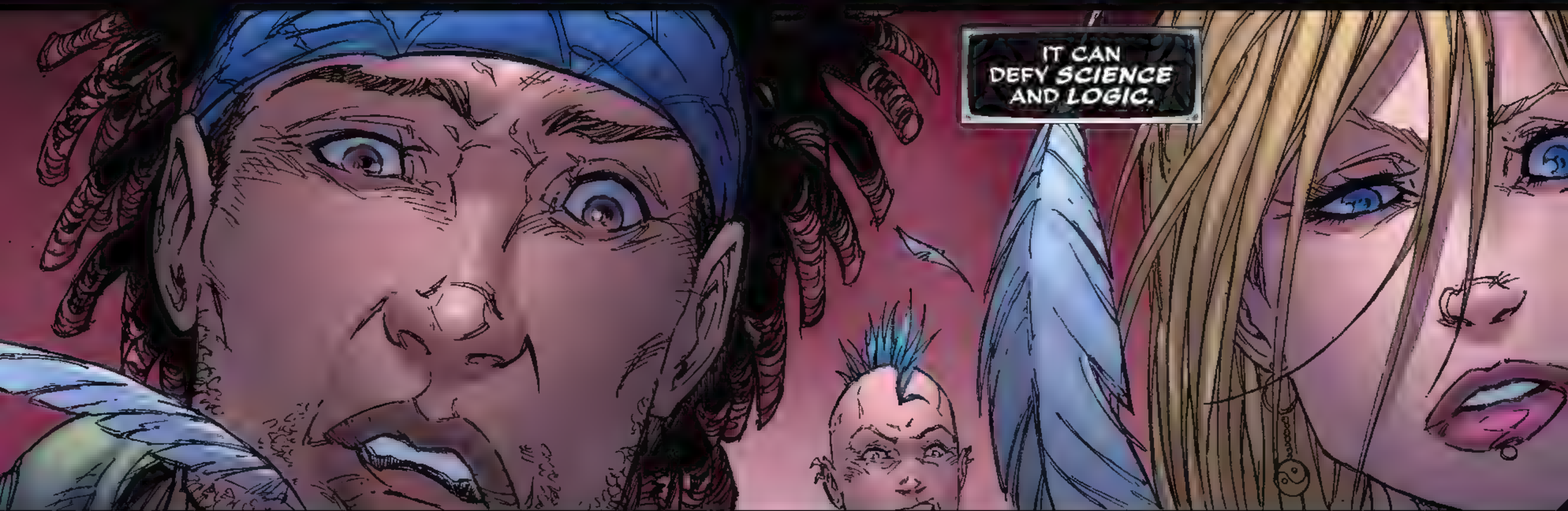
FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: **1888-COMIC-BOOK** - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: **CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@CFLOYSTUDIO.COM]**



FAITH
IS A FUNNY
THING.



IT CAN
BE FIRM AND
UNWAVERING.



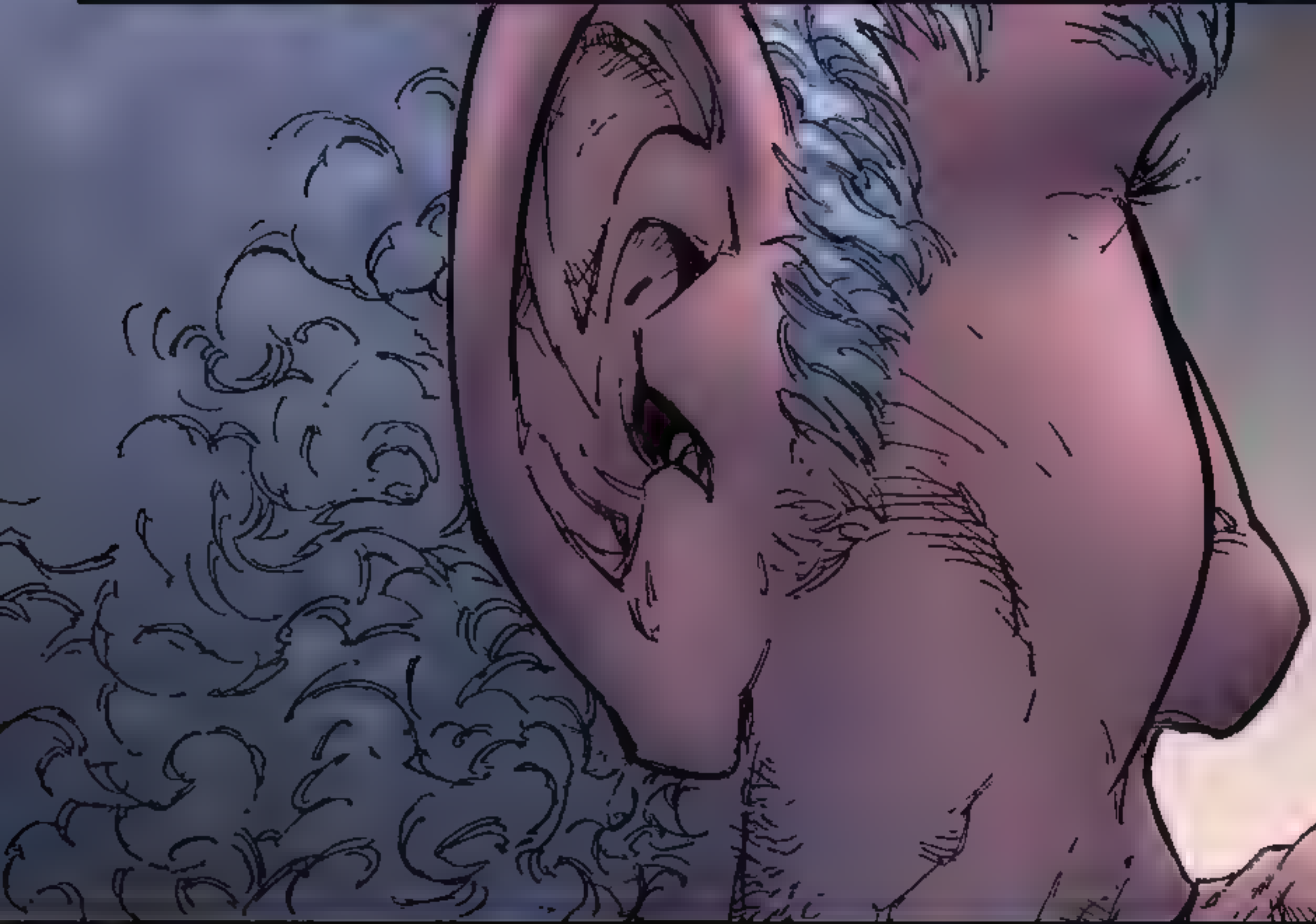
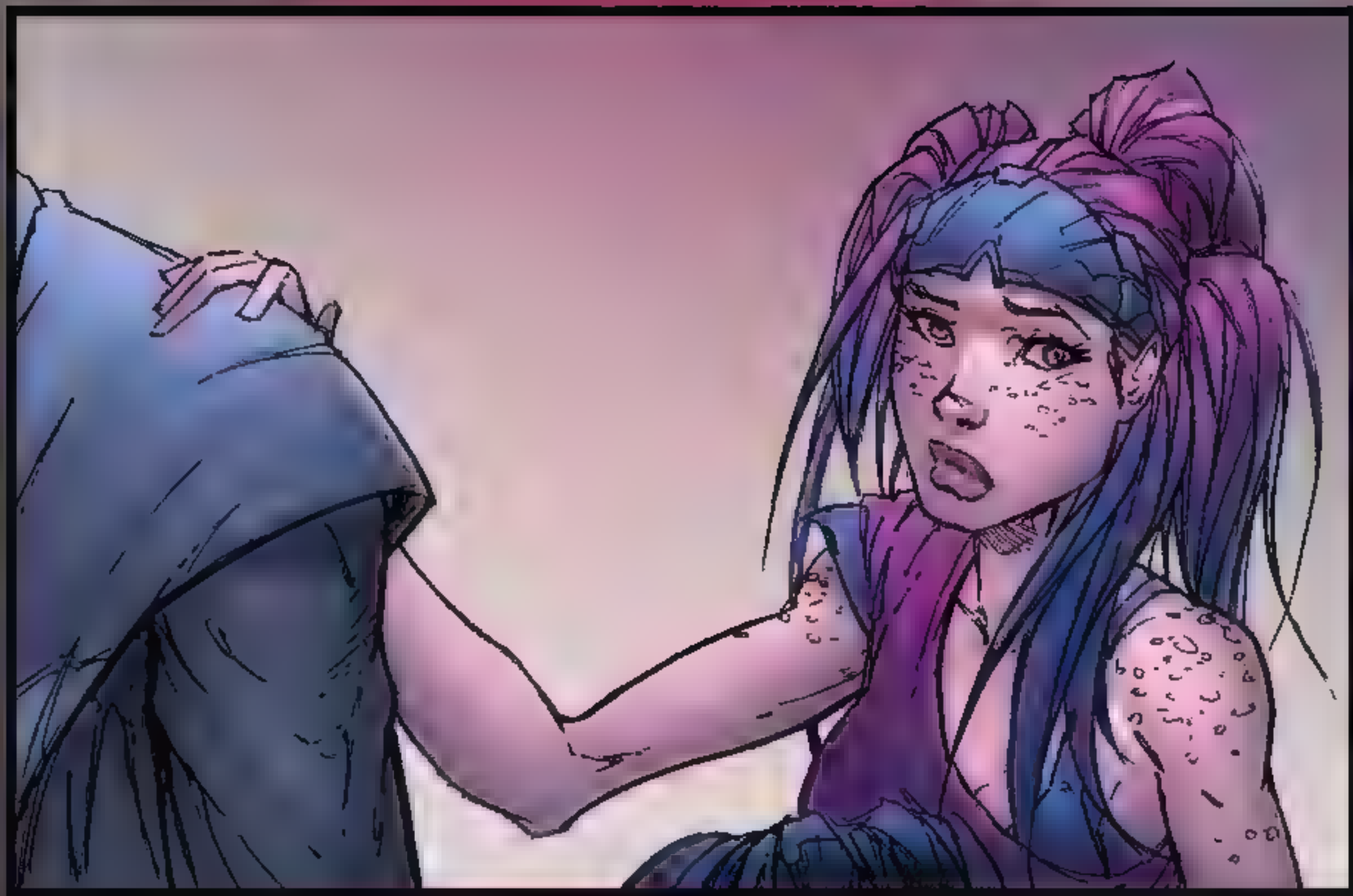
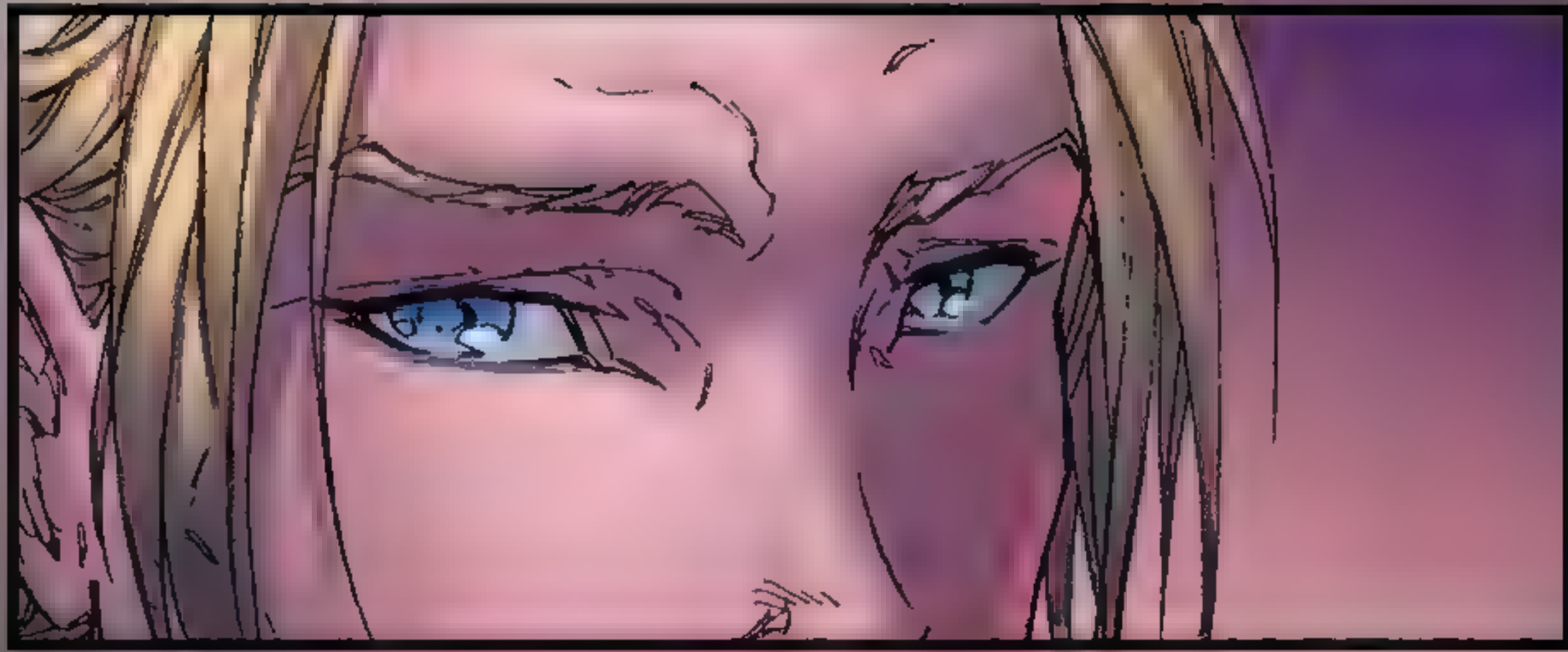
IT CAN
DEFY SCIENCE
AND LOGIC.

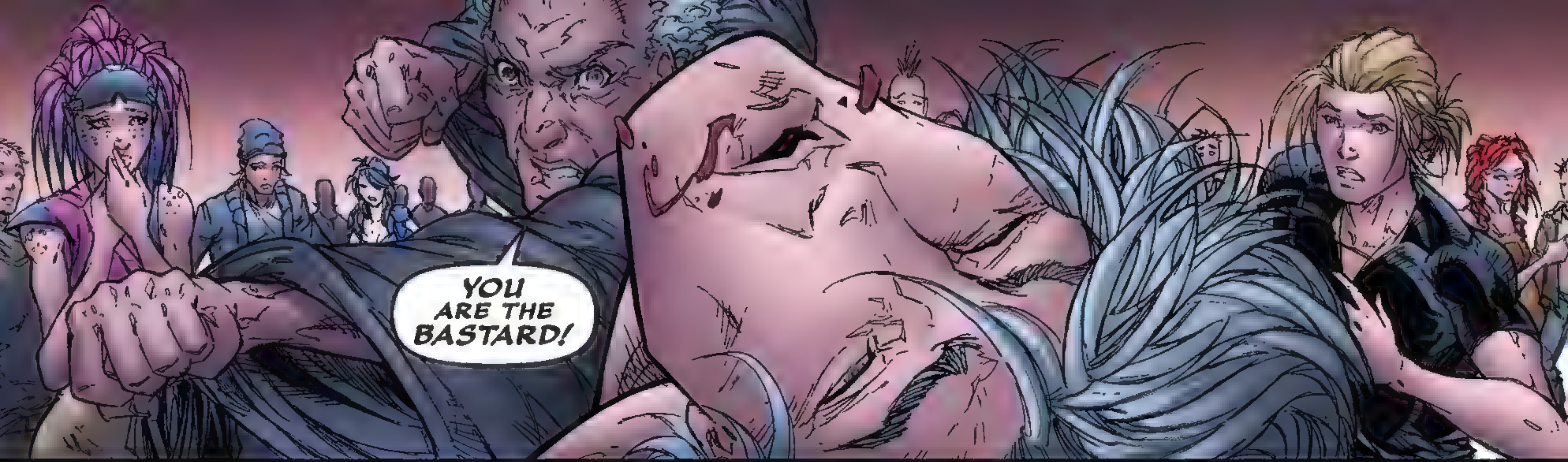


BUT AT THE
SAME TIME, IT CAN
BE MORE FRAGILE
THAN GLASS.

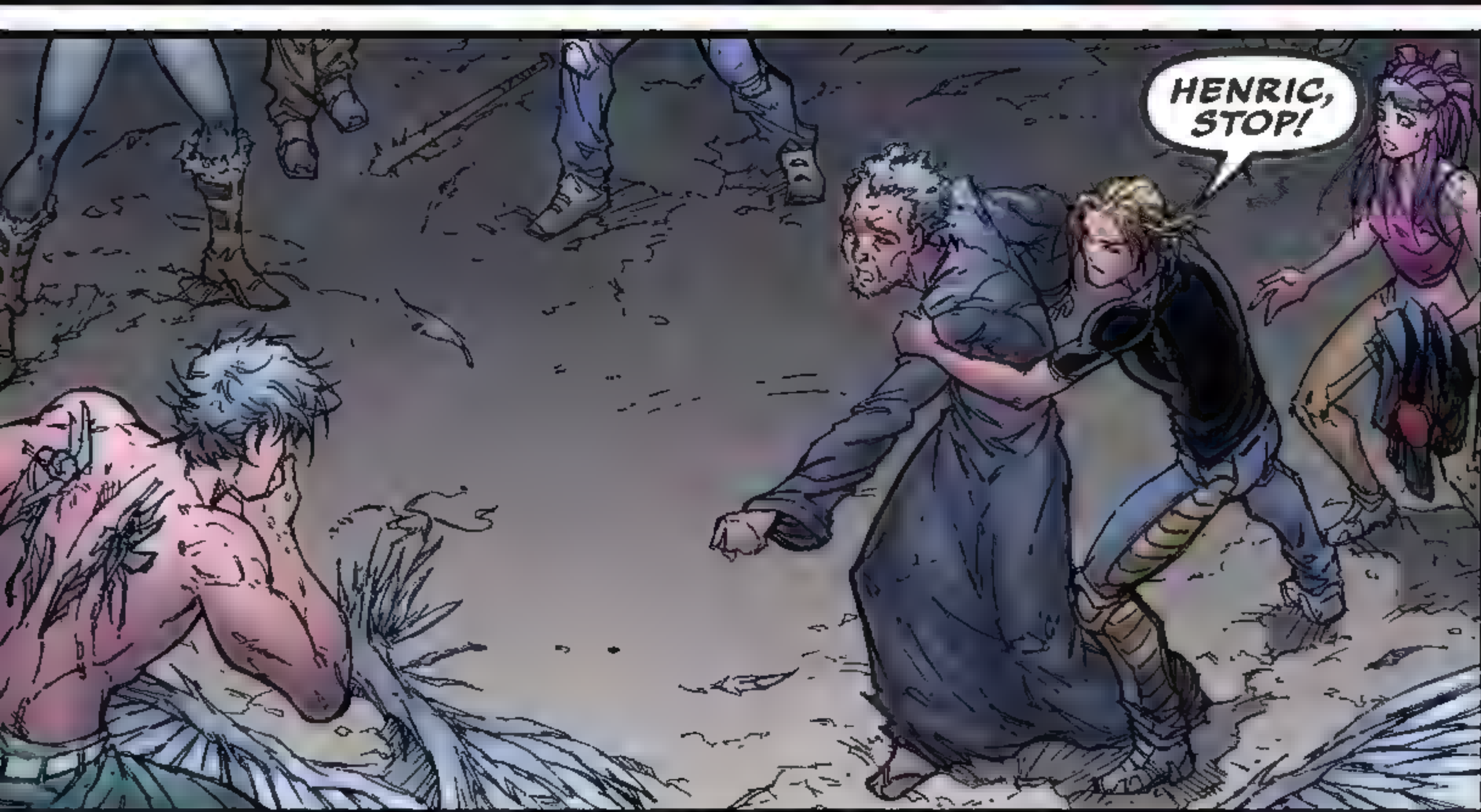


AND ALL IT TAKES IS THE
SIGHT OF ONE **FALLEN**
ANGEL TO SHATTER
ONE'S **FAITH** INTO A
MILLION PIECES.

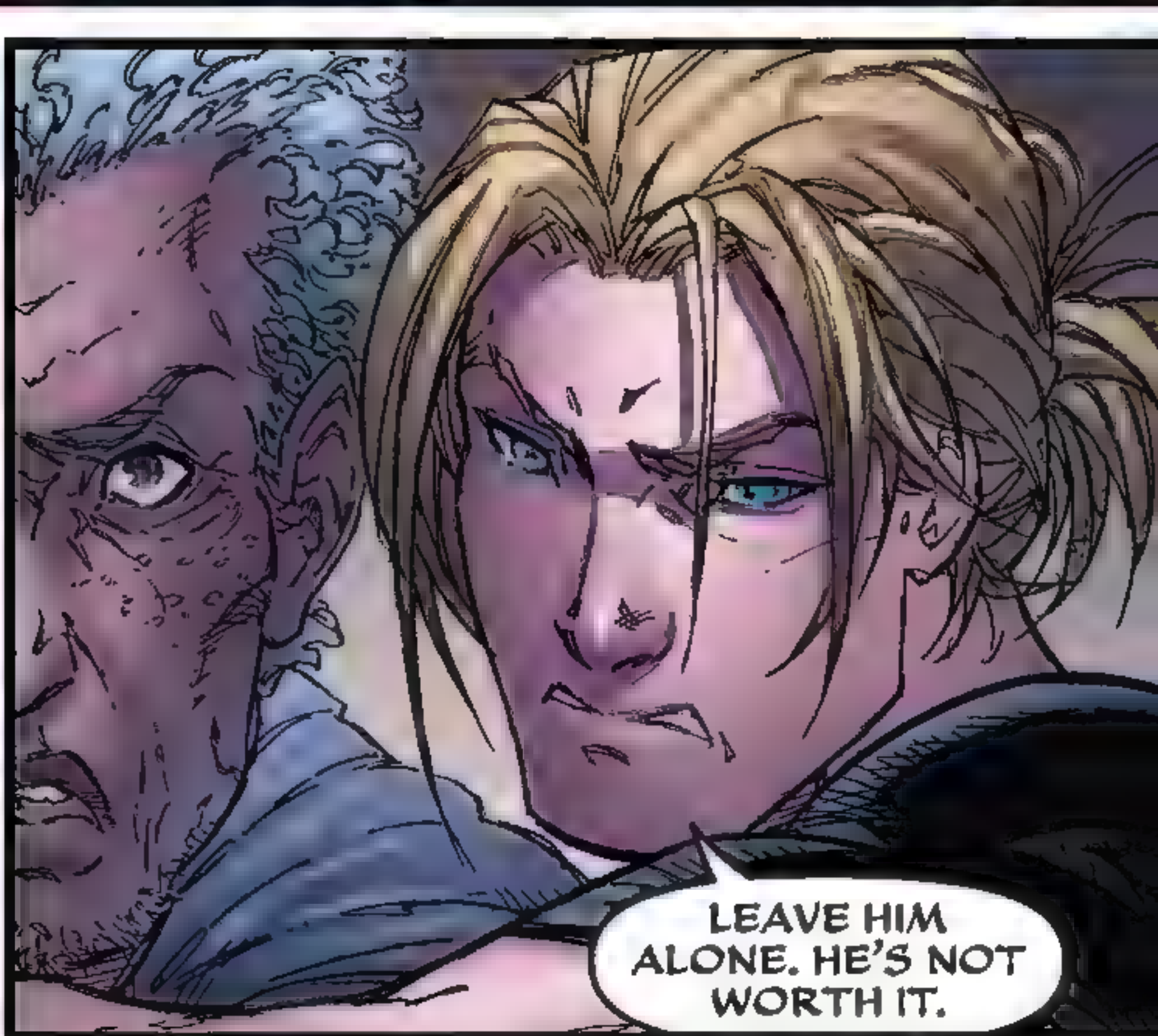




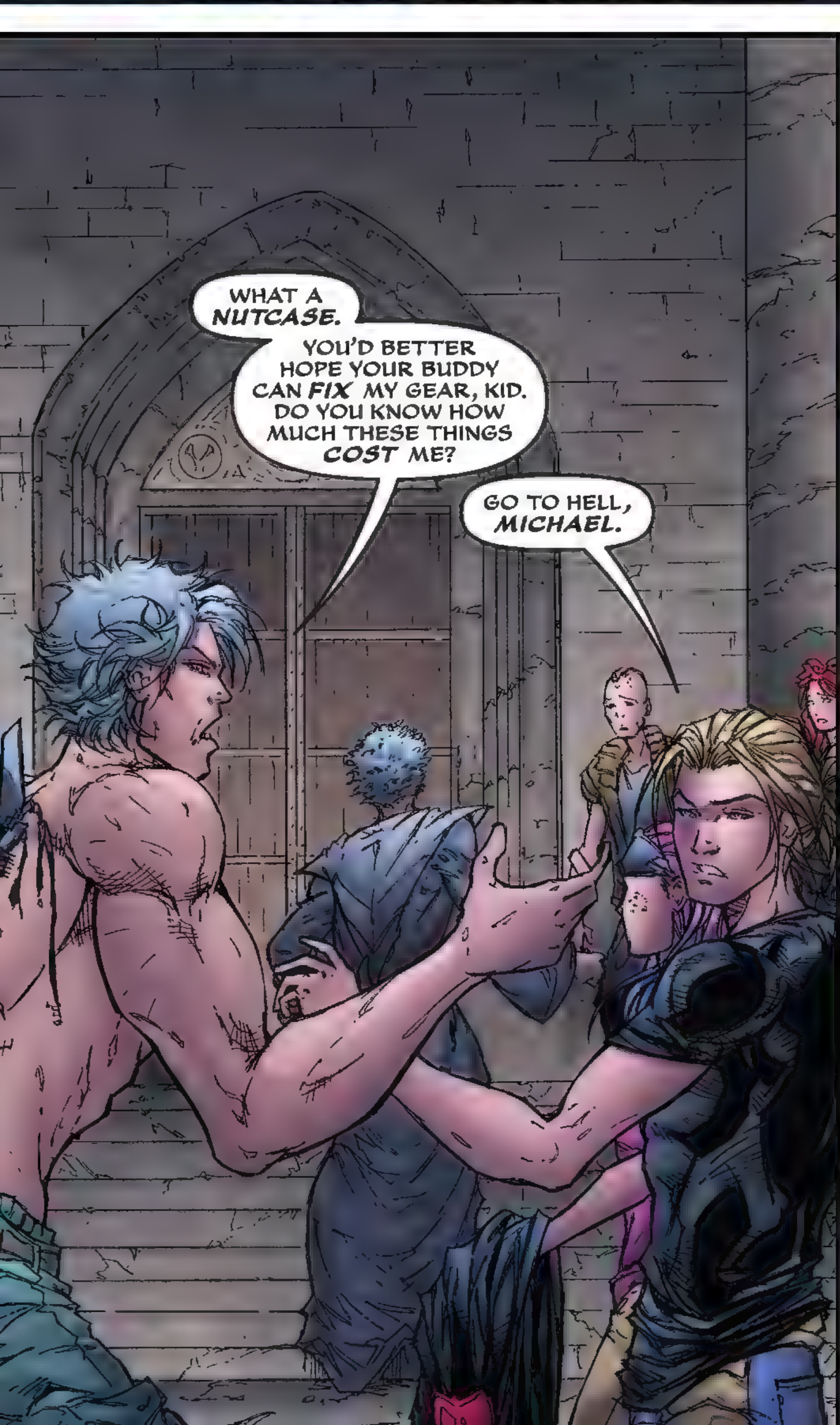
YOU
ARE THE
BASTARD!



HENRIC,
STOP!



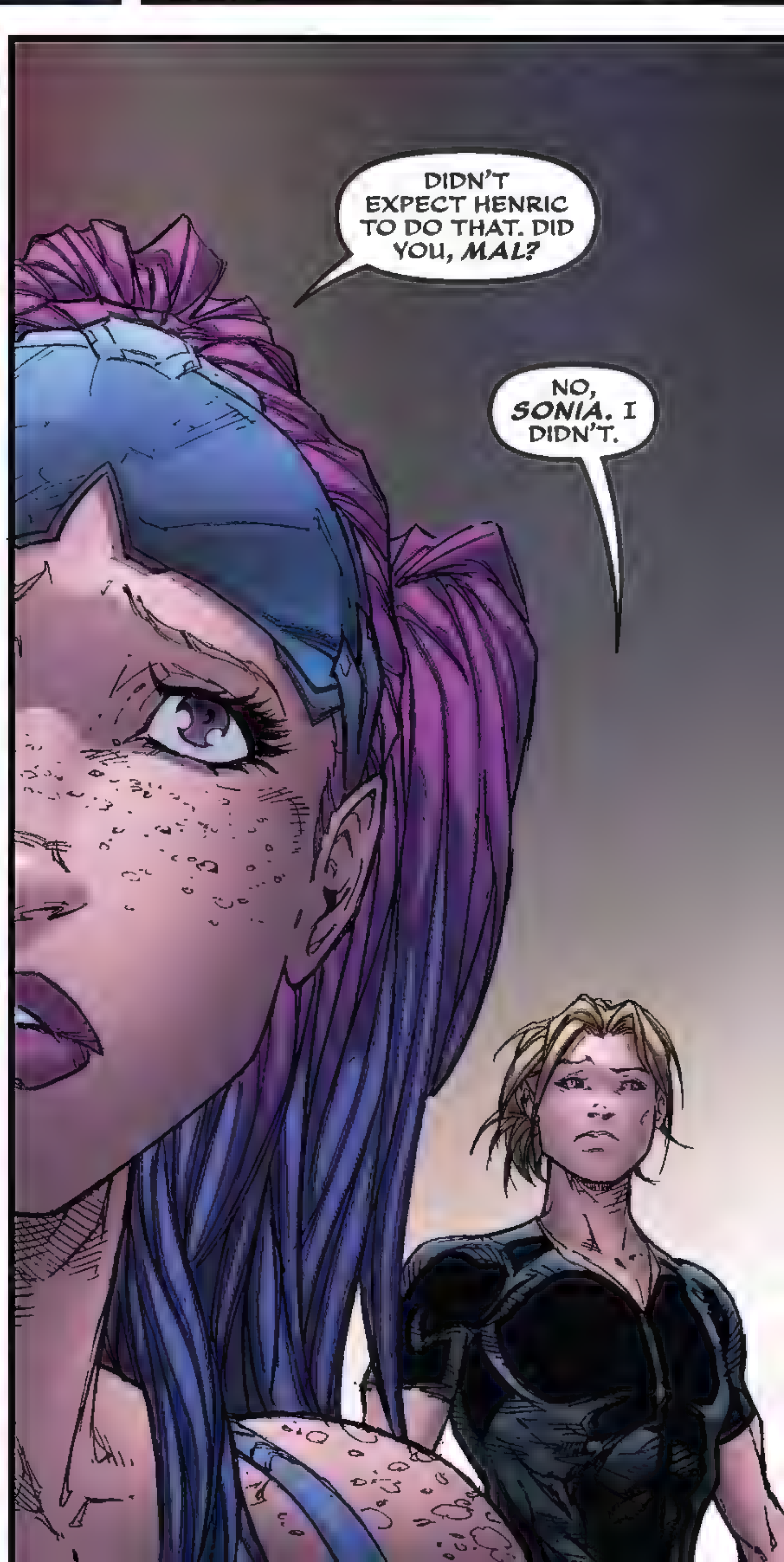
LEAVE HIM
ALONE. HE'S NOT
WORTH IT.



WHAT A
NUTCASE.

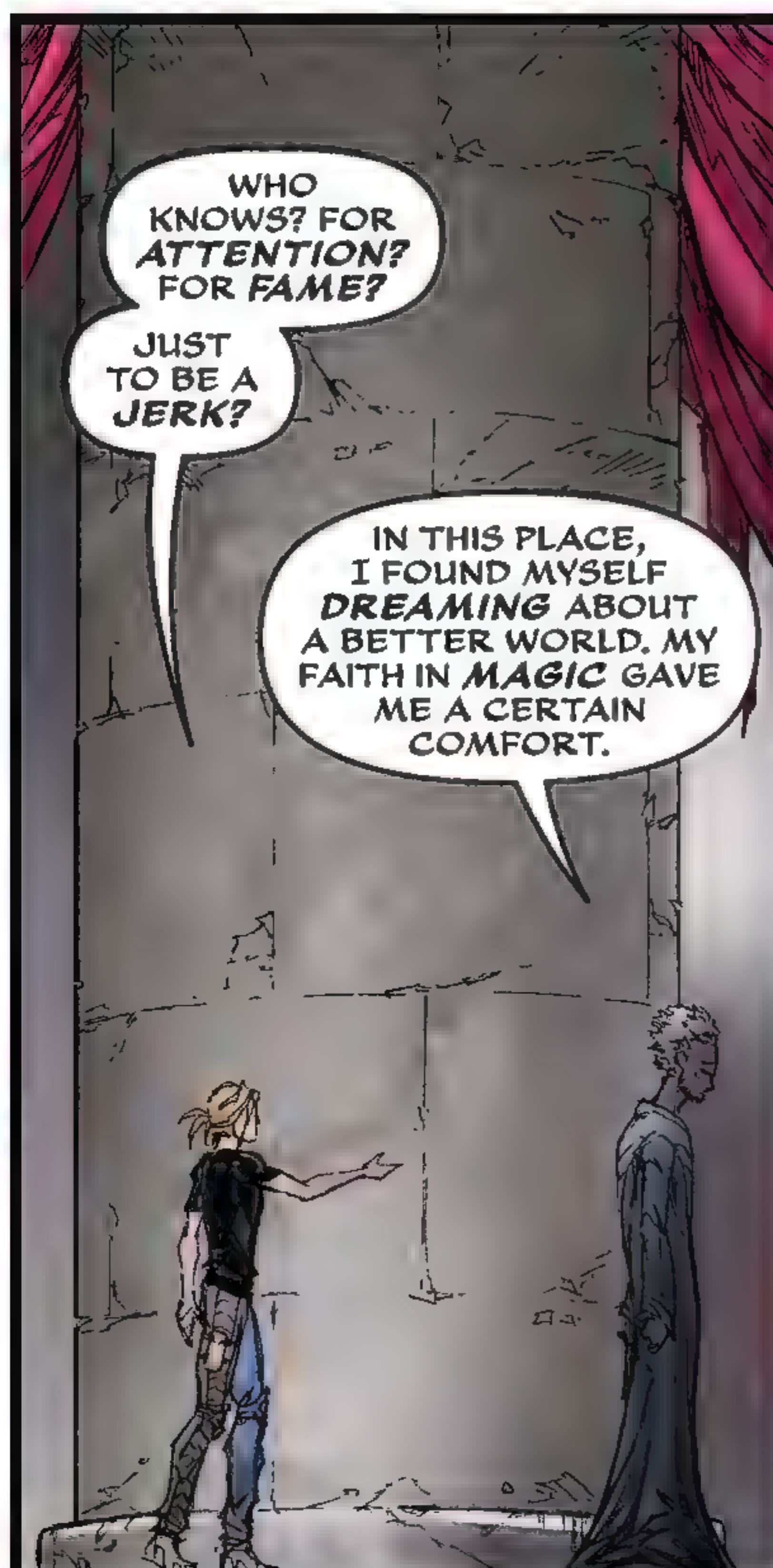
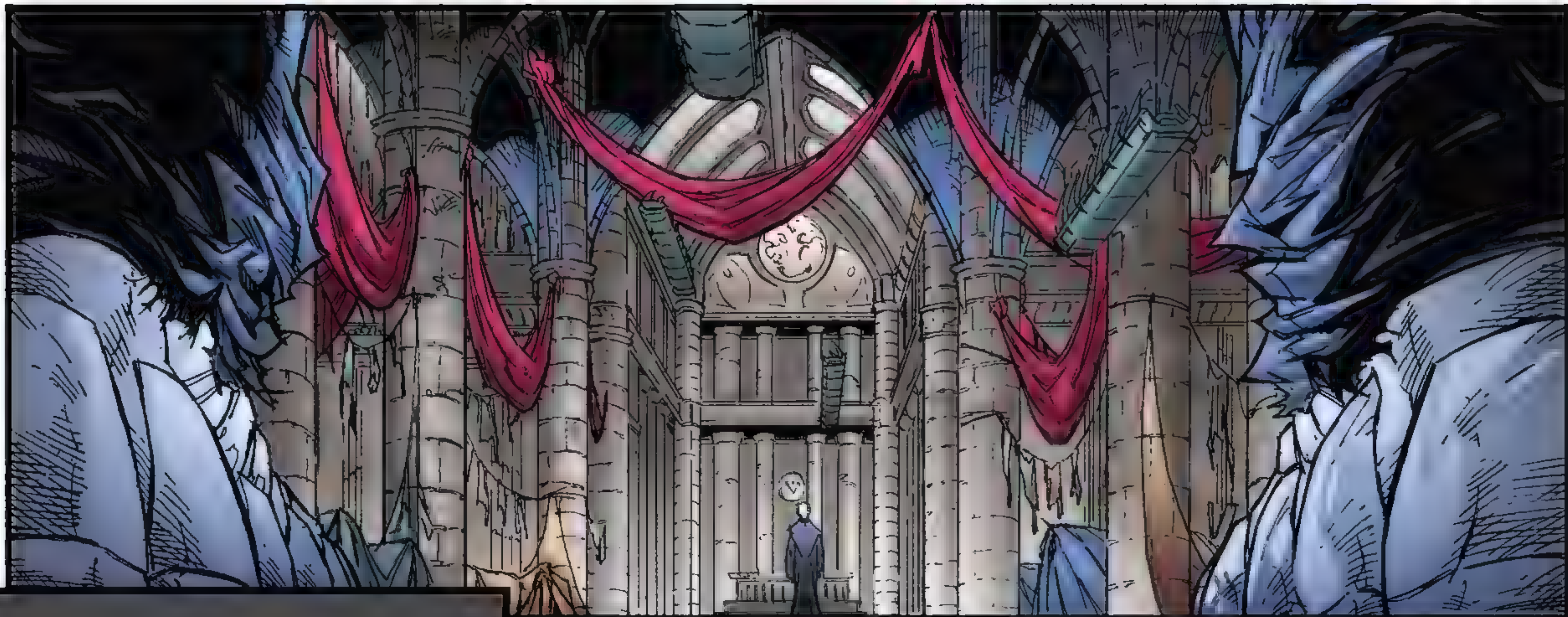
YOU'D BETTER
HOPE YOUR BUDDY
CAN *FIX* MY GEAR, KID.
DO YOU KNOW HOW
MUCH THESE THINGS
COST ME?

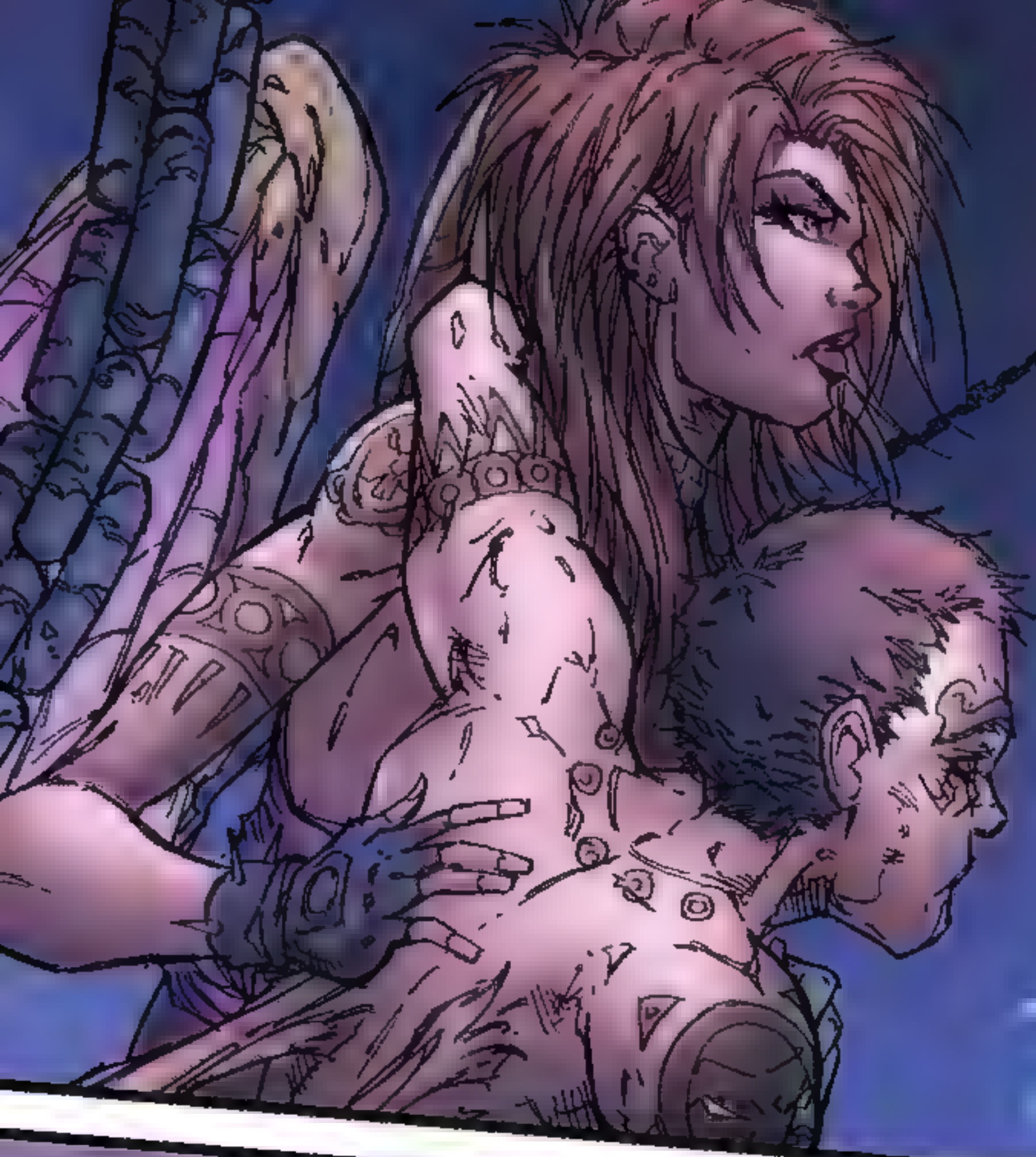
GO TO HELL,
MICHAEL.



DIDN'T
EXPECT HENRIC
TO DO THAT. DID
YOU, *MAL*?

NO,
SONIA. I
DIDN'T.

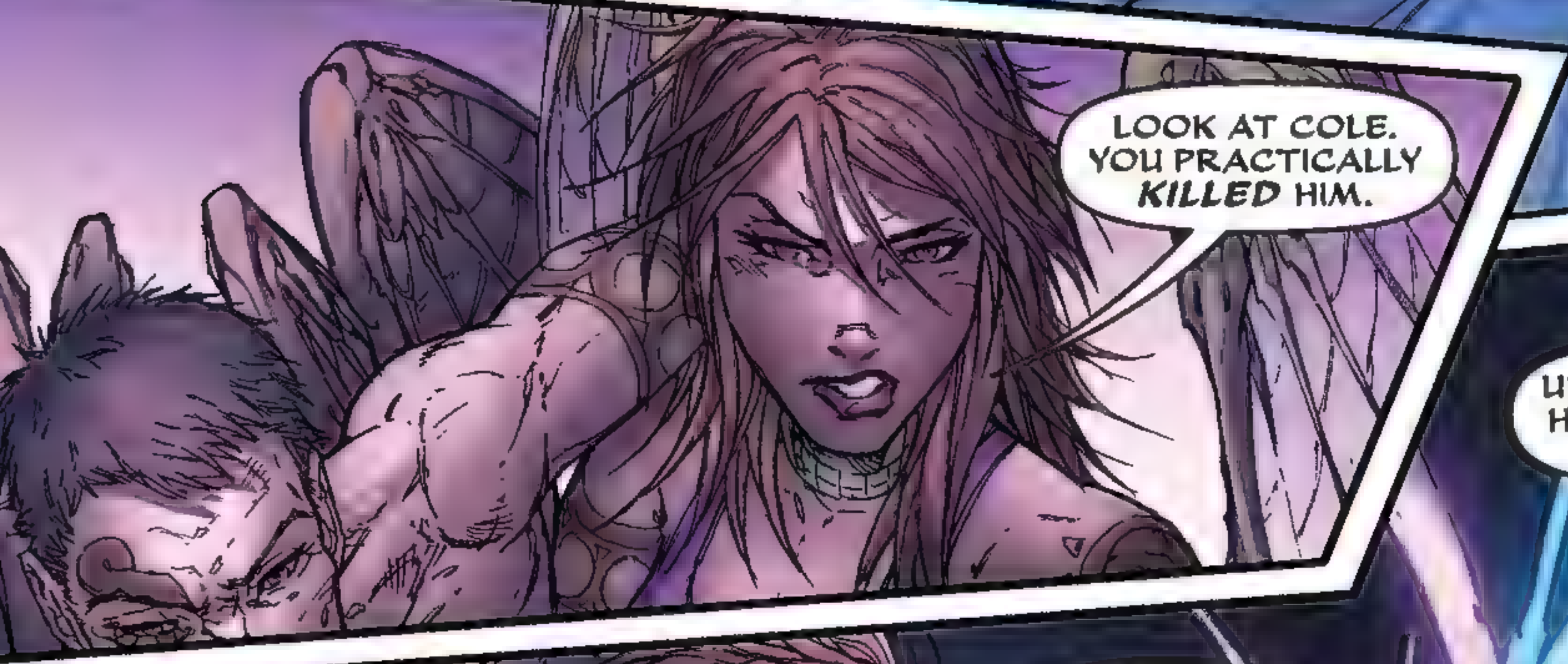




SO, YOU
DECIDED TO DROP
THE **FAÇADE** AND
BE THE **MONSTER**
YOU TRULY ARE,
RAINIER?



WE ALL
HAVE OUR
ROLES TO
PLAY.



LOOK AT COLE.
YOU PRACTICALLY
KILLED HIM.



UNFORTUNATELY,
HIS TAKES QUITE
THE TOLL.



NOT
ANYMORE!



NNNNNN...

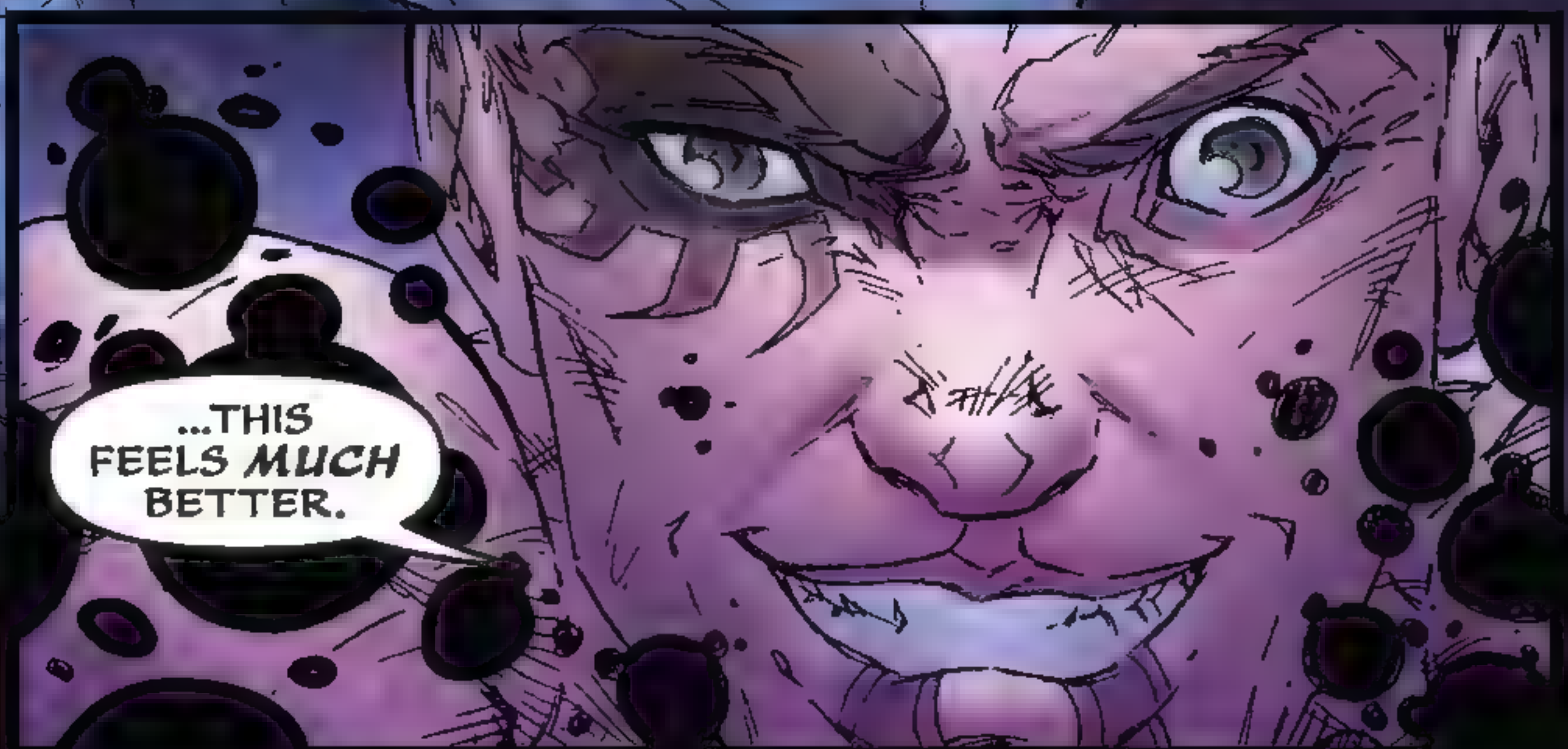
YOU CAME
TO ME BECAUSE
YOU **CRAVED** TO BE
AROUND POWER, JAYDEN.
DO YOU REALLY WANT
THAT SAME POWER
TURNED **AGAINST**
YOU?



NNNNNN...



B...B...
BETTER...



...THIS
FEELS MUCH
BETTER.



WELL, DON'T
JUST STAND THERE,
JAYDEN.

IT'S AN
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
BUFFET.



AND
I, FOR ONE, AM
STARVING.

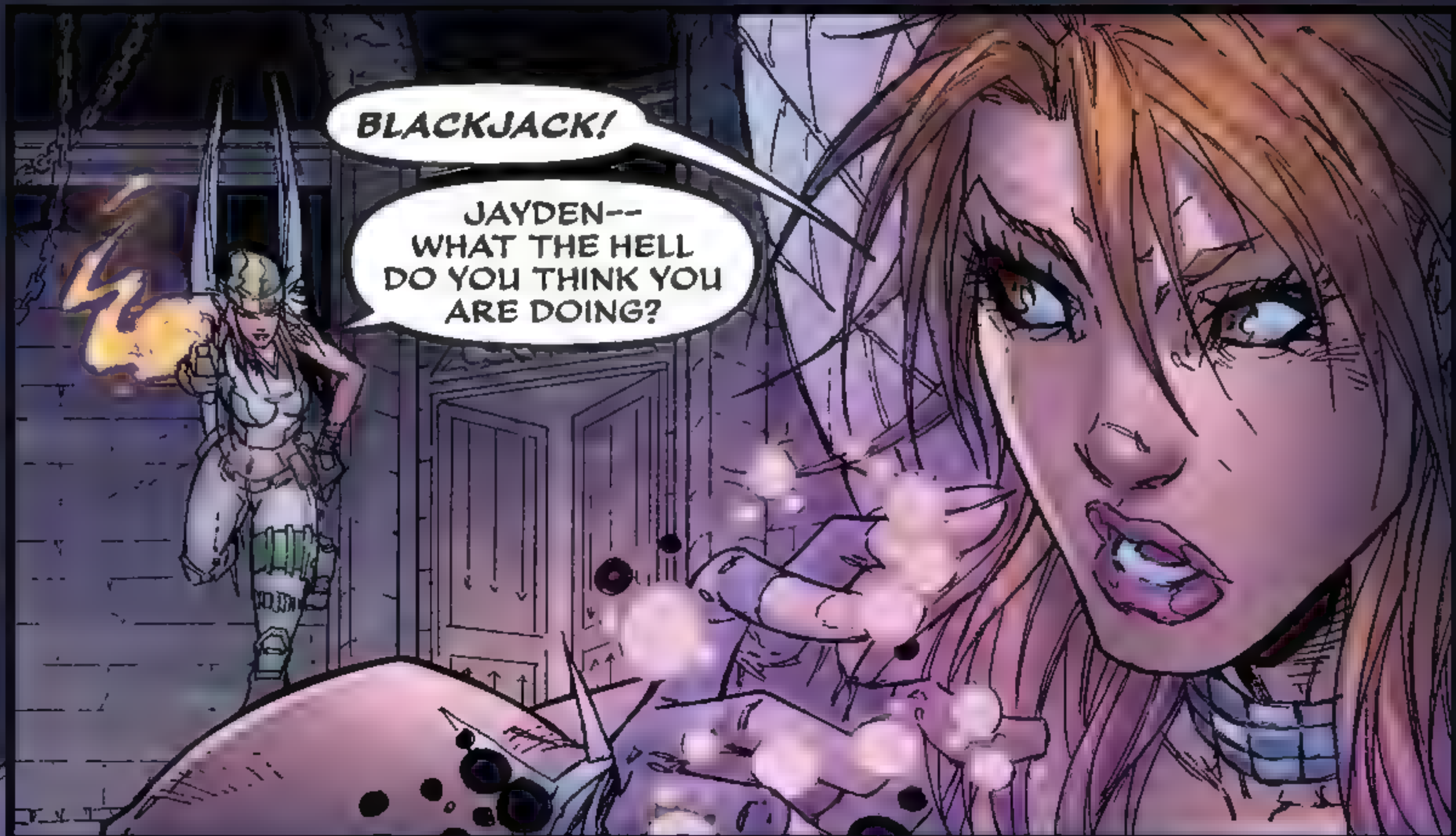
AHHHHH!

YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY SAY,
RAINIER.

THE LORD
GIVETH, AND THE
LORD TAKETH
AWAY.



GET
AWAY FROM
HIM!



BLACKJACK!

JAYDEN--
WHAT THE HELL
DO YOU THINK YOU
ARE DOING?



HE WAS
TORTURING COLE.
KEPT HIM **LOCKED** UP
IN HERE ALL THIS TIME.
USING HIM LIKE SOME
DAMN MAGICAL
SIPHON.

AND YOU
KNEW, DIDN'T
YOU?!?

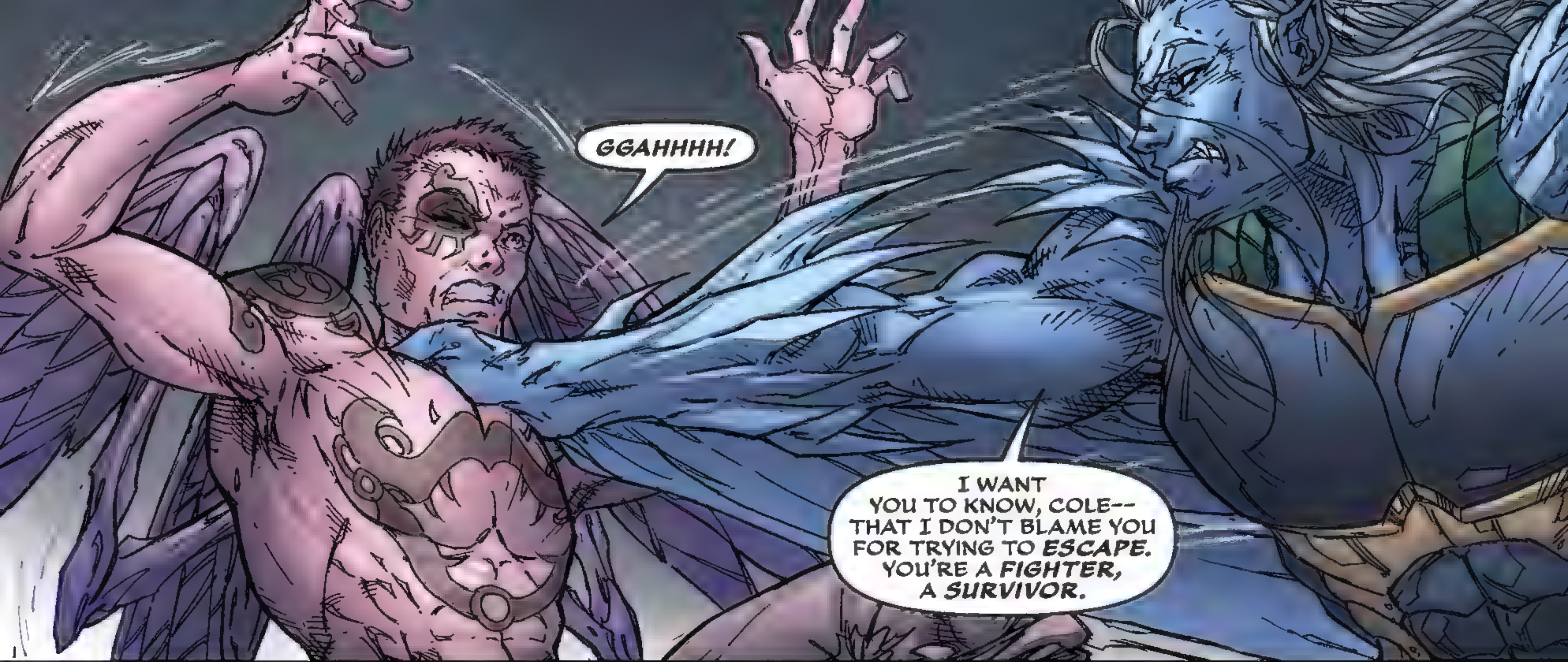


I WOULD
HAVE TOLD YOU,
BUT IT WOULDN'T
HAVE CHANGED
ANYTHING.

WHAT RAINIER
WANTS, RAINIER
GETS. ESPECIALLY IF
I'M THE ONE HE'S
PAYING TO
GET IT.

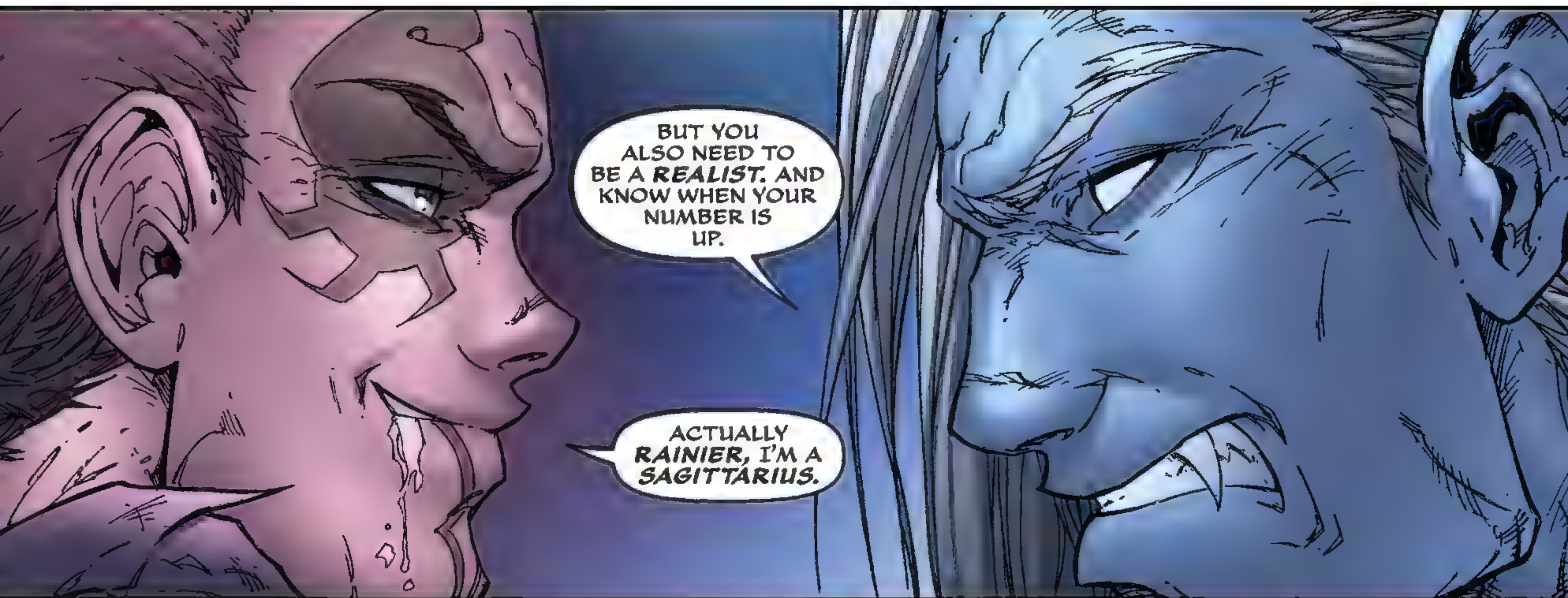


BABE
PACKS QUITE
A WALLOP.



GGAHHHH!

I WANT YOU TO KNOW, COLE-- THAT I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR TRYING TO *ESCAPE*. YOU'RE A *FIGHTER*, A *SURVIVOR*.

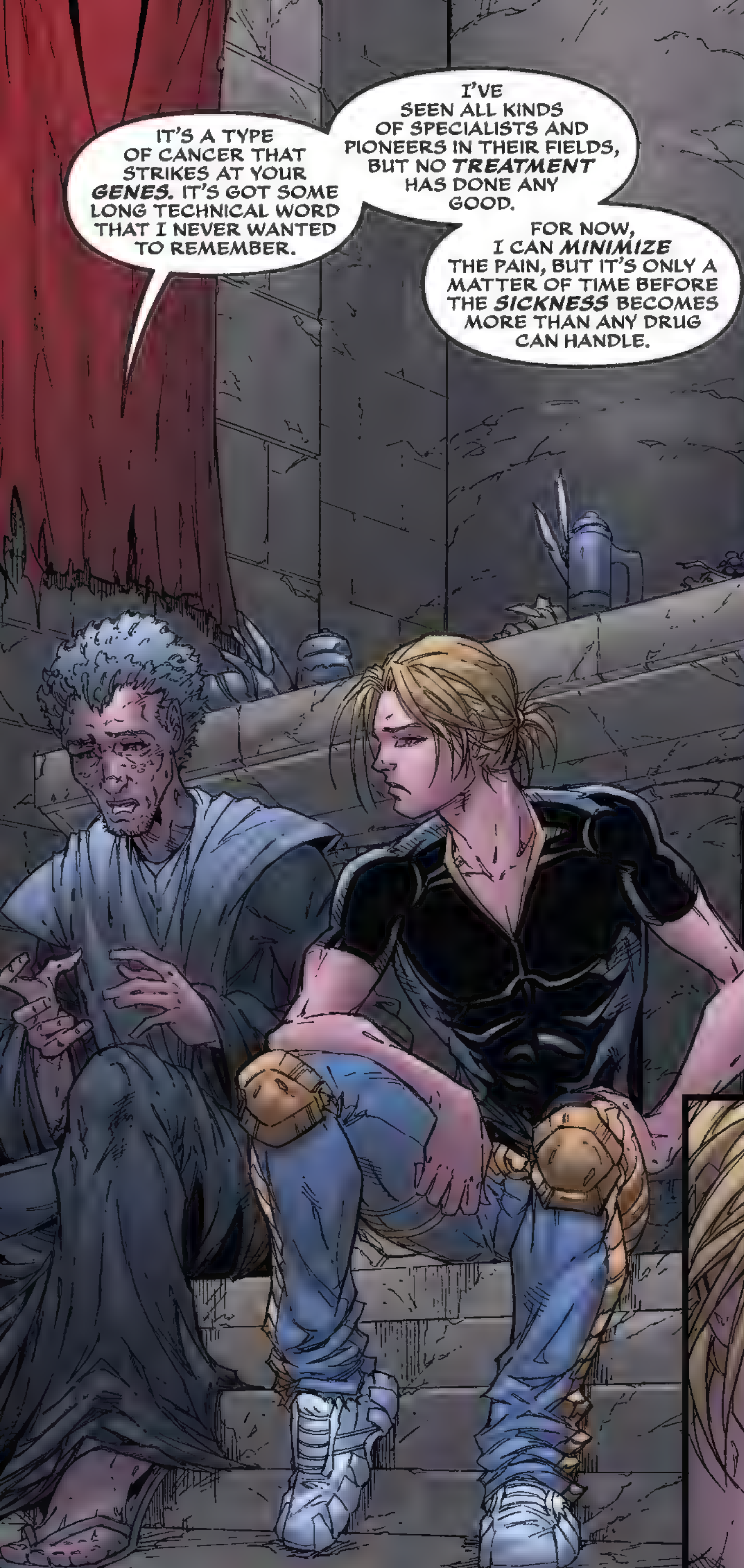


BUT YOU ALSO NEED TO BE A *REALIST*. AND KNOW WHEN YOUR NUMBER IS UP.

ACTUALLY RAINIER, I'M A *SAGITTARIUS*.



THAT'S MORE LIKE IT. *LAUGHING* IN THE FACE OF *DEATH*.



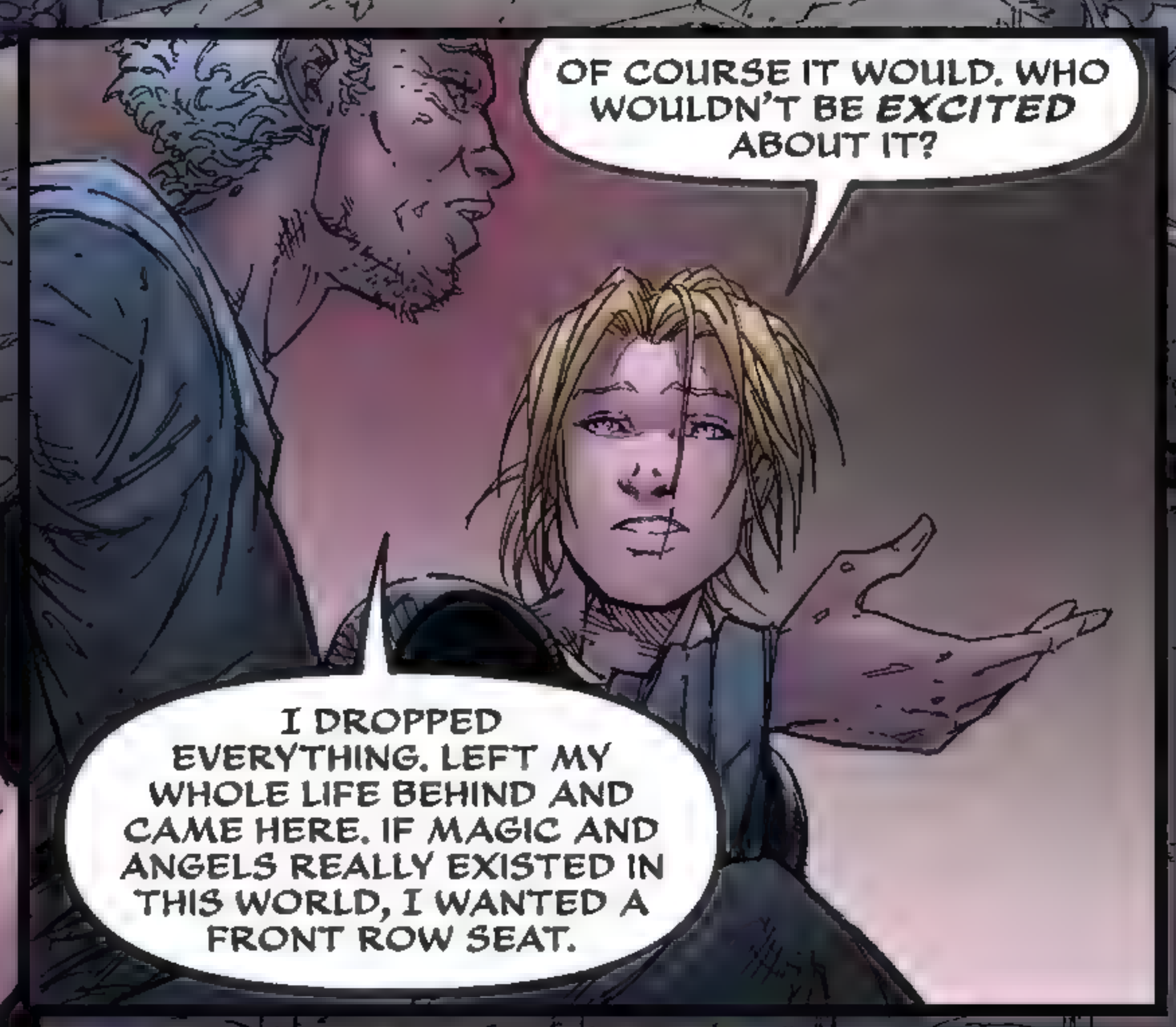
IT'S A TYPE OF CANCER THAT STRIKES AT YOUR **GENES**. IT'S GOT SOME LONG TECHNICAL WORD THAT I NEVER WANTED TO REMEMBER.

I'VE SEEN ALL KINDS OF SPECIALISTS AND PIONEERS IN THEIR FIELDS, BUT NO **TREATMENT** HAS DONE ANY GOOD.

FOR NOW, I CAN **MINIMIZE** THE PAIN, BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE **SICKNESS** BECOMES MORE THAN ANY DRUG CAN HANDLE.

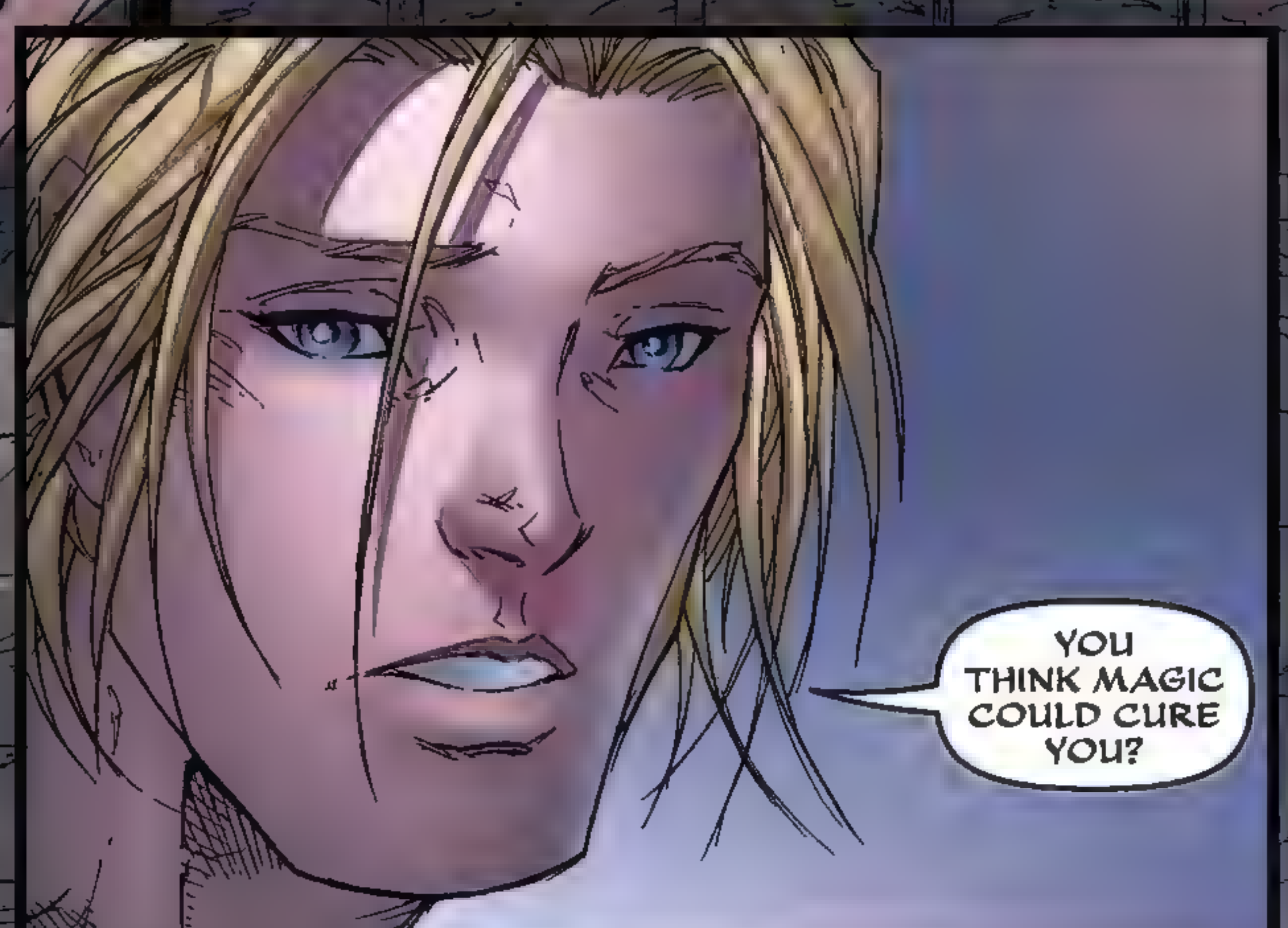


I NEVER CONSIDERED MYSELF A **RELIGIOUS** MAN BEFORE, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT **GABRIEL'S VOICE** AND THE STORIES OF **MAGIC** GOT TO ME.

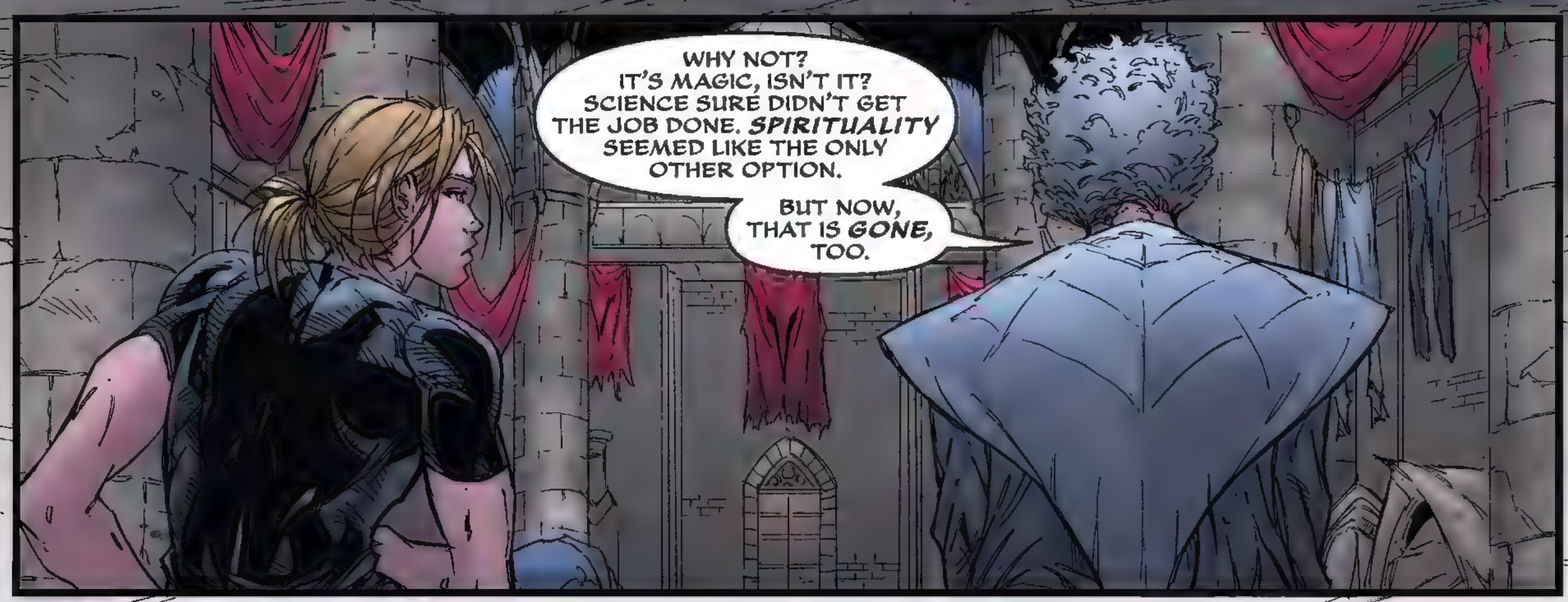


OF COURSE IT WOULD. WHO WOULDN'T BE **EXCITED** ABOUT IT?

I DROPPED EVERYTHING. LEFT MY WHOLE LIFE BEHIND AND CAME HERE. IF MAGIC AND ANGELS REALLY EXISTED IN THIS WORLD, I WANTED A FRONT ROW SEAT.

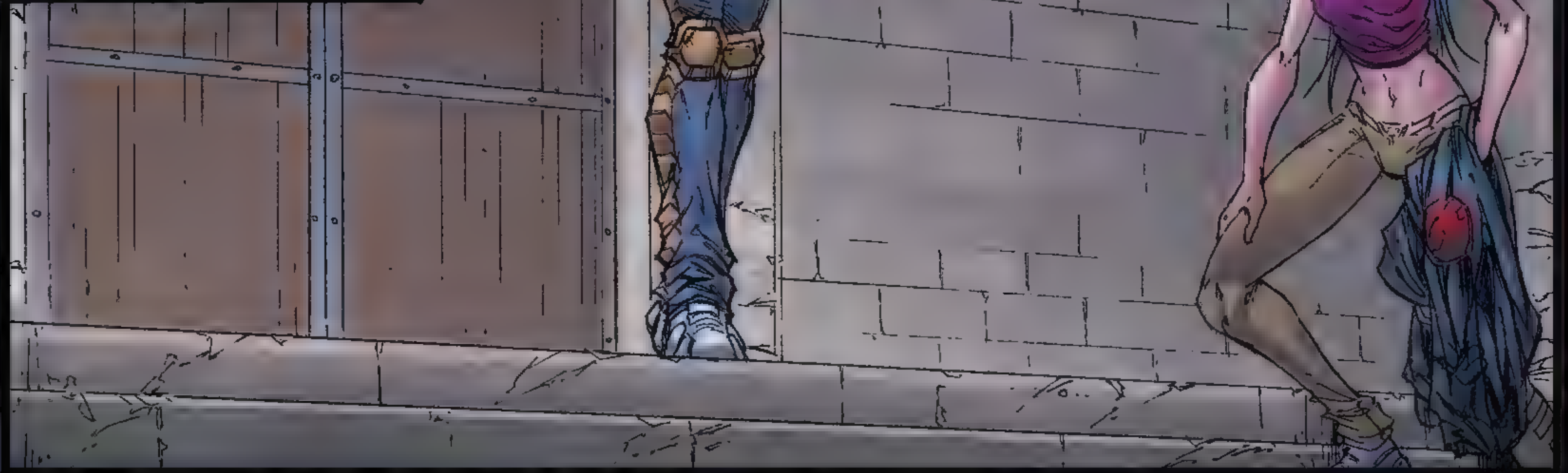


YOU THINK MAGIC COULD CURE YOU?



WHY NOT? IT'S MAGIC, ISN'T IT? SCIENCE SURE DIDN'T GET THE JOB DONE. **SPIRITUALITY** SEEMED LIKE THE ONLY OTHER OPTION.

BUT NOW, THAT IS **GONE**, TOO.



HEY.

HEY.
HE OKAY?

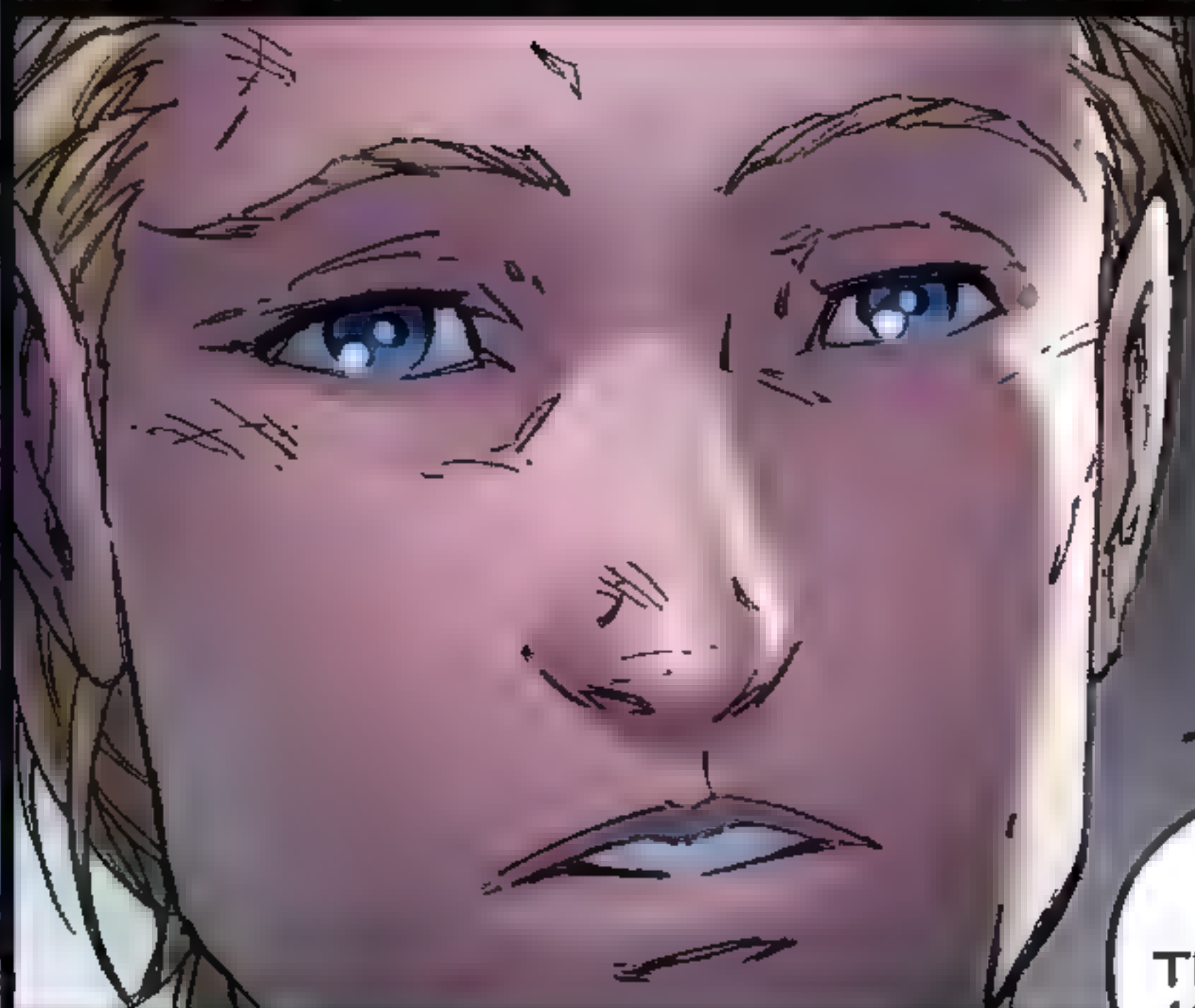
SURE.
I GUESS
SO.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?



WHO
KNOWS?

SEEMS
LIKE EVERY
DECISION I MAKE
IS HURTING
PEOPLE.



SURE,
MICHAEL WAS A
FRAUD, BUT THE
EFFECT HE HAD ON
THEM WAS **REAL**.
THEY BELIEVED.

BELIEVED
A **LIE**.

WHAT WERE
YOU SUPPOSED TO
DO--- GO ON LETTING
THEM THINK HE WAS SOME
KIND OF MAGICAL ANGEL?
SENT DOWN JUST
FOR THEM?

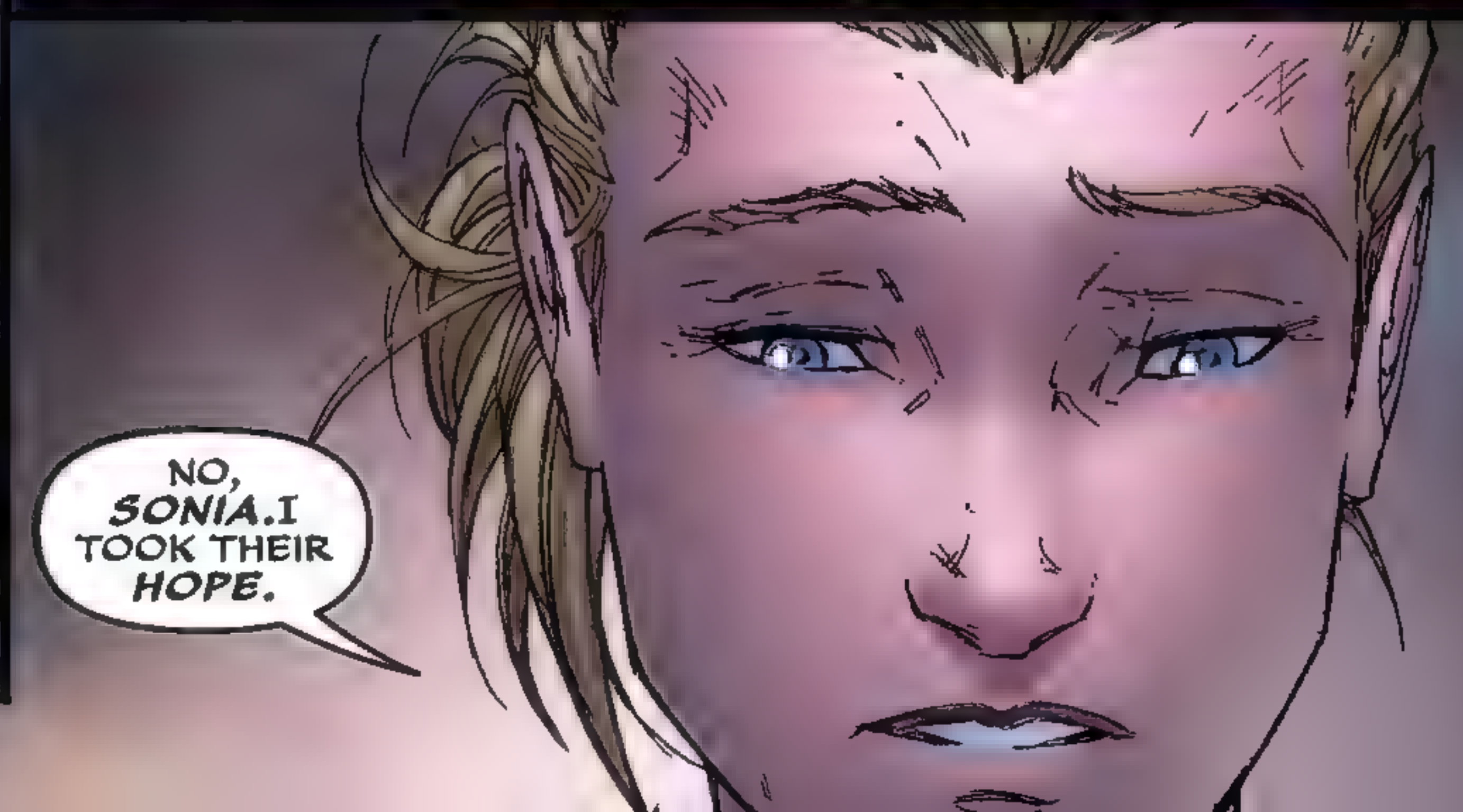


MAYBE
THAT WOULD HAVE
BEEN BETTER THAN THE
ALTERNATIVE.

YOU
SHOWED
THEM THE
TRUTH,
MAL.

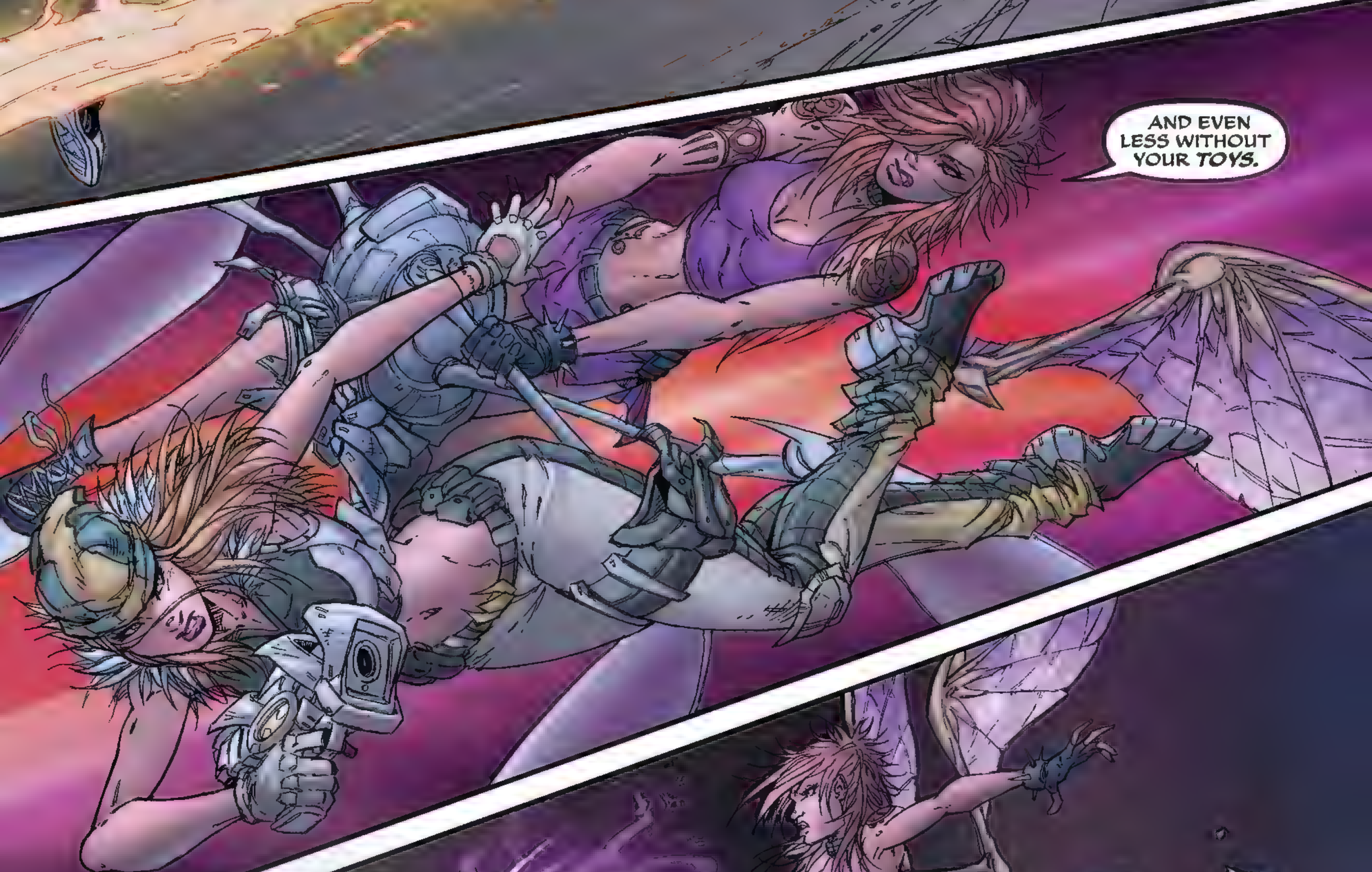


NO,
SONIA. I
TOOK THEIR
HOPE.

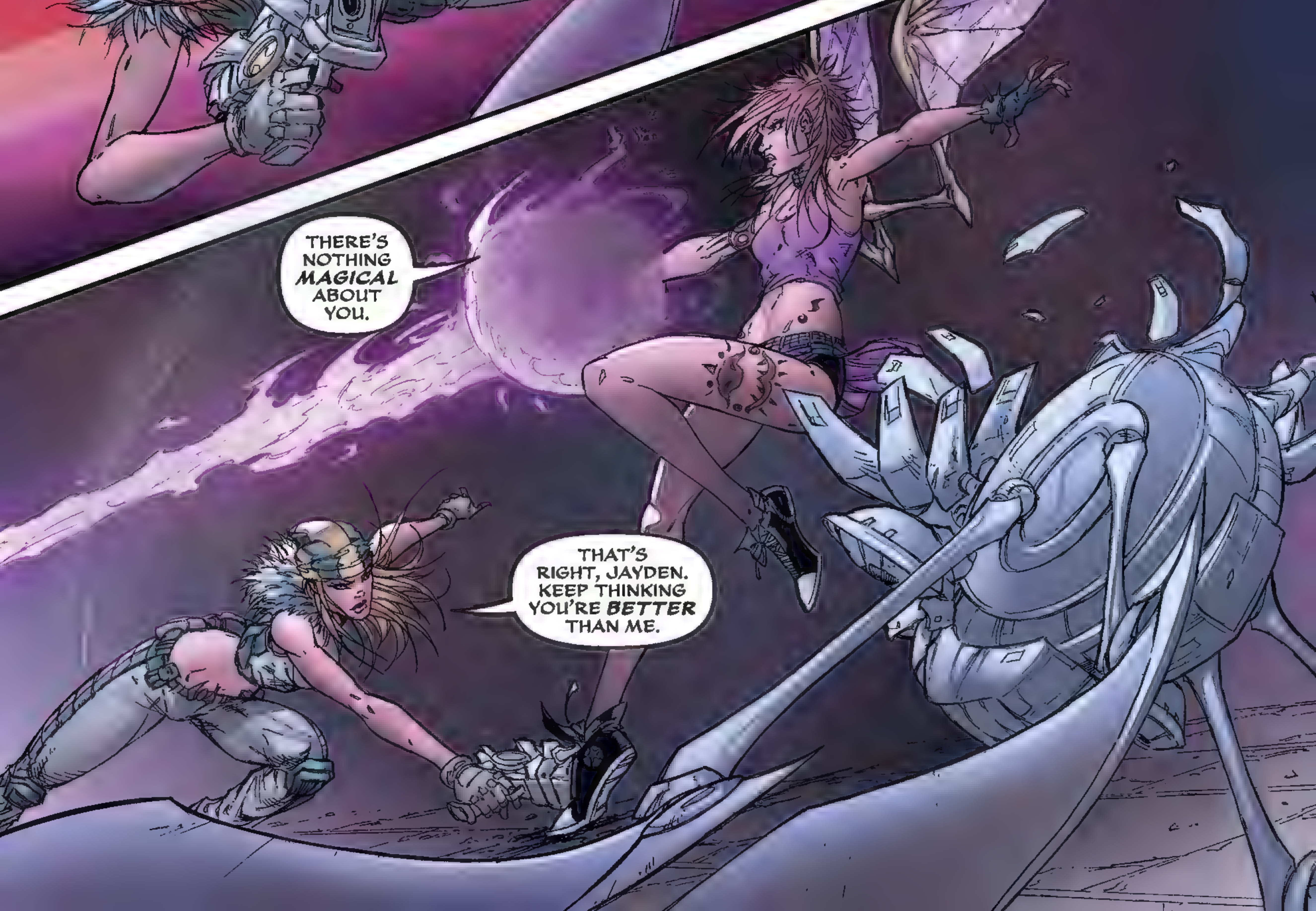




YOU'RE
NOTHING,
BLACKJACK.



AND EVEN
LESS WITHOUT
YOUR TOYS.



THERE'S
NOTHING
MAGICAL
ABOUT
YOU.

THAT'S
RIGHT, JAYDEN.
KEEP THINKING
YOU'RE BETTER
THAN ME.

I LOVE
PROVING YOU
WRONG.

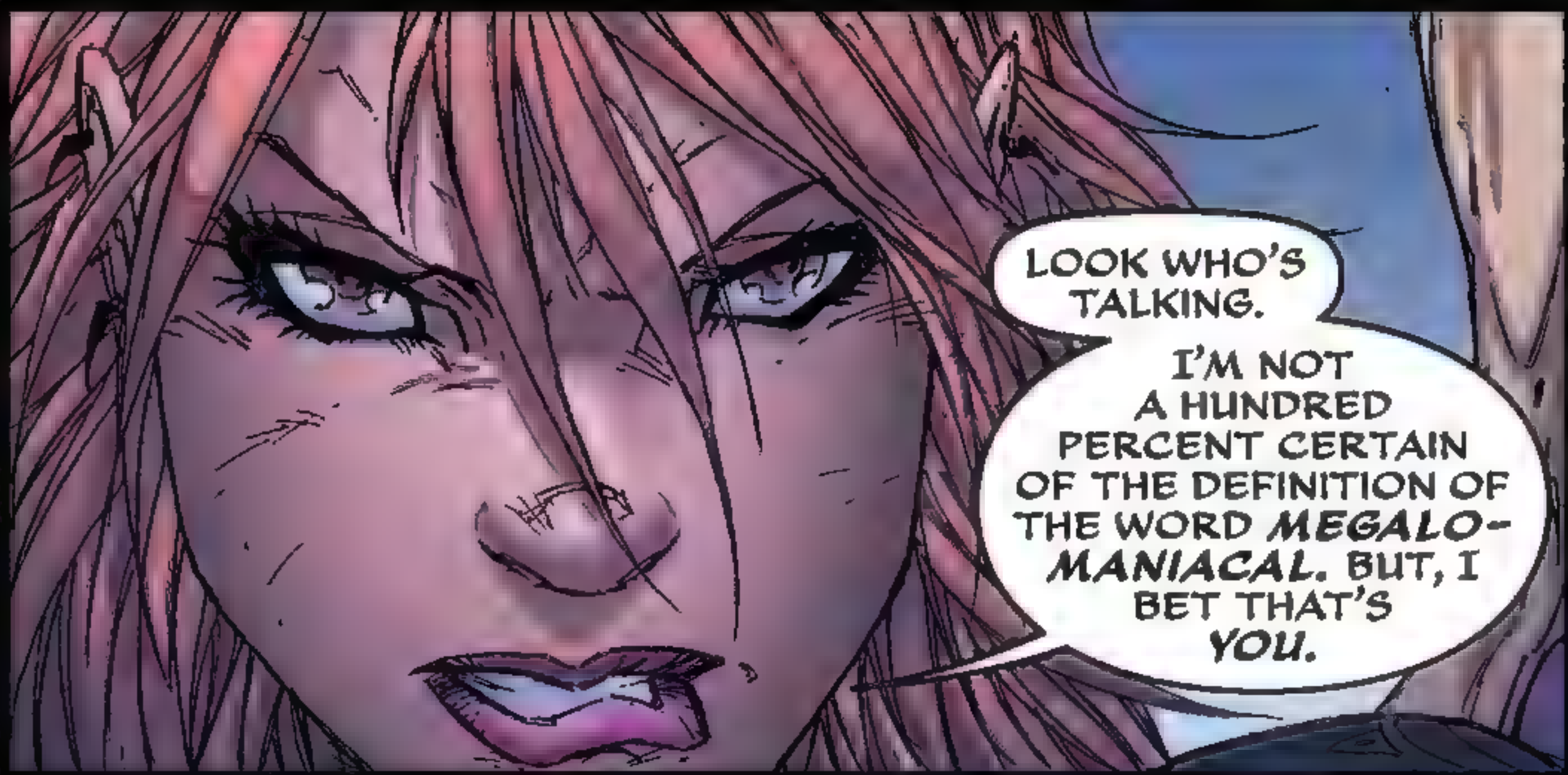
WHAMM!





YOU'RE RIGHT, JAYDEN. BLACKJACK DOESN'T HAVE ANY MAGIC. BUT, SHE ALSO NEVER WANTS WHAT I WILL NOT GIVE HER.

THOSE LIKE YOU AND COLE-- YOU'RE *PARASITES*. FOR YOU, THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH. YOU ALWAYS WANT MORE *POWER*. LIKE AN *ITCH* YOU CANNOT SCRATCH.



LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

I'M NOT A HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAIN OF THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD *MEGALO-MANIACAL*. BUT, I BET THAT'S *YOU*.



BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE IS A *METHOD* TO WHAT YOU SEE AS *MADNESS*.

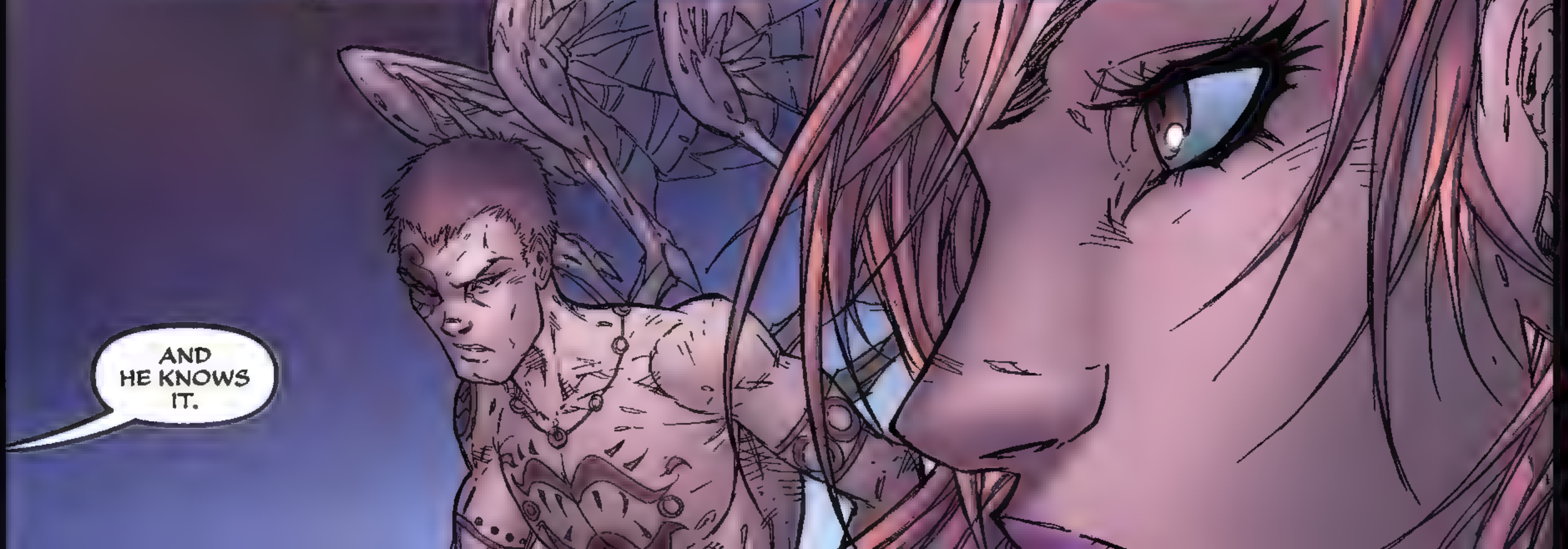
AN *END GOAL*.



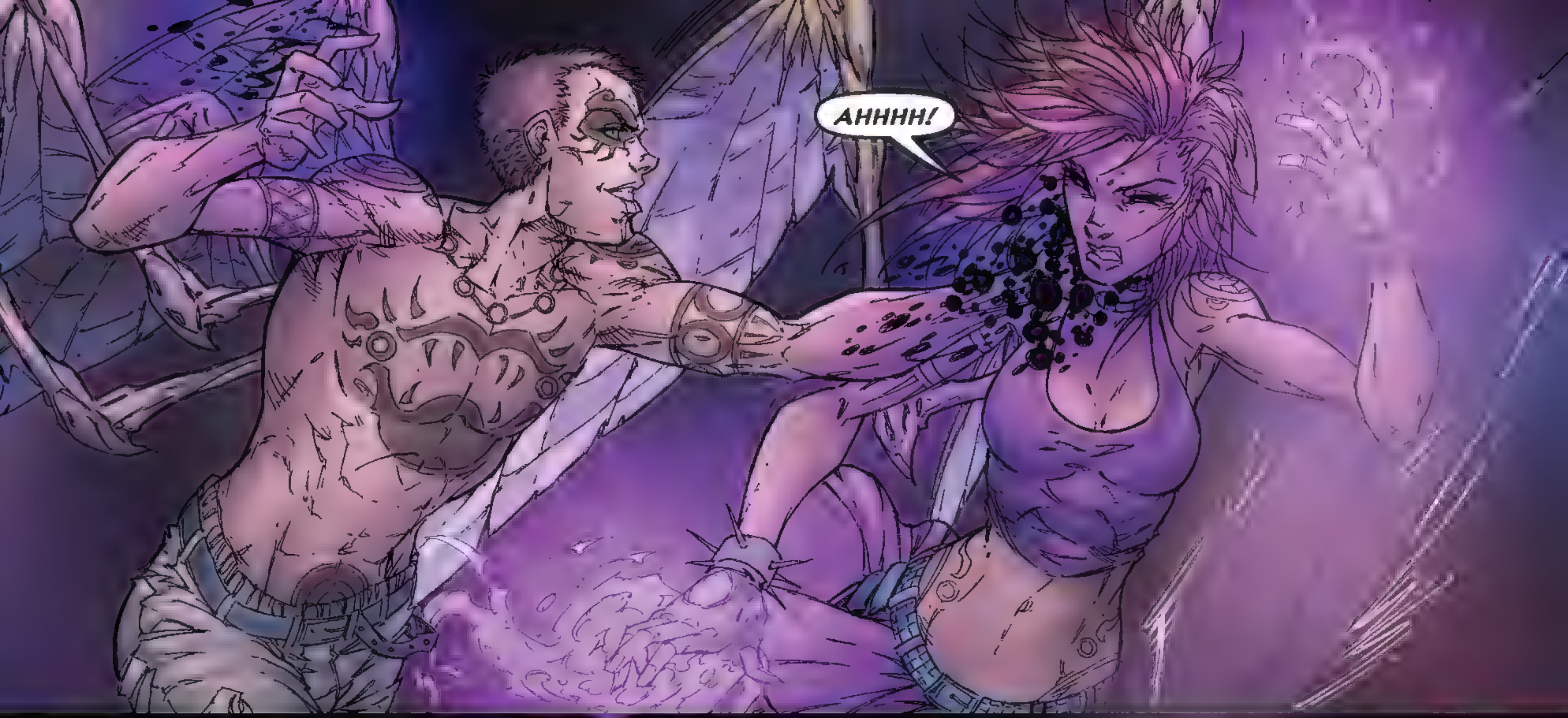
AND FOR THAT REASON, I NEEDED *COLE*. IT WAS NOTHING PERSONAL.

IT WAS A MATTER OF HIS *ABILITY*. THAT'S WHAT I NEEDED. WHAT I STILL NEED.

WHAT I WILL HAVE.



AND HE KNOWS IT.

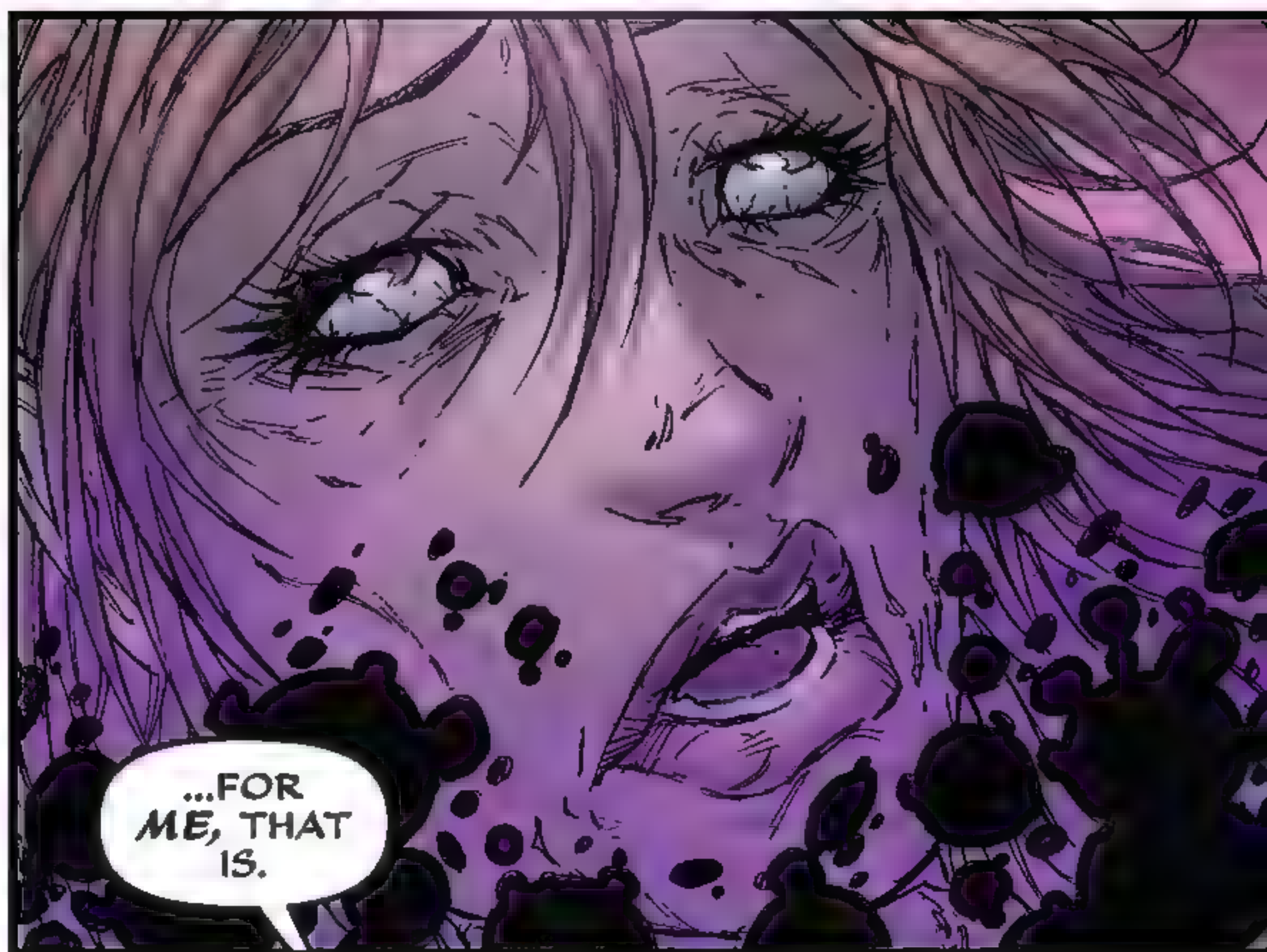


AHHHH!



SORRY,
BABE.

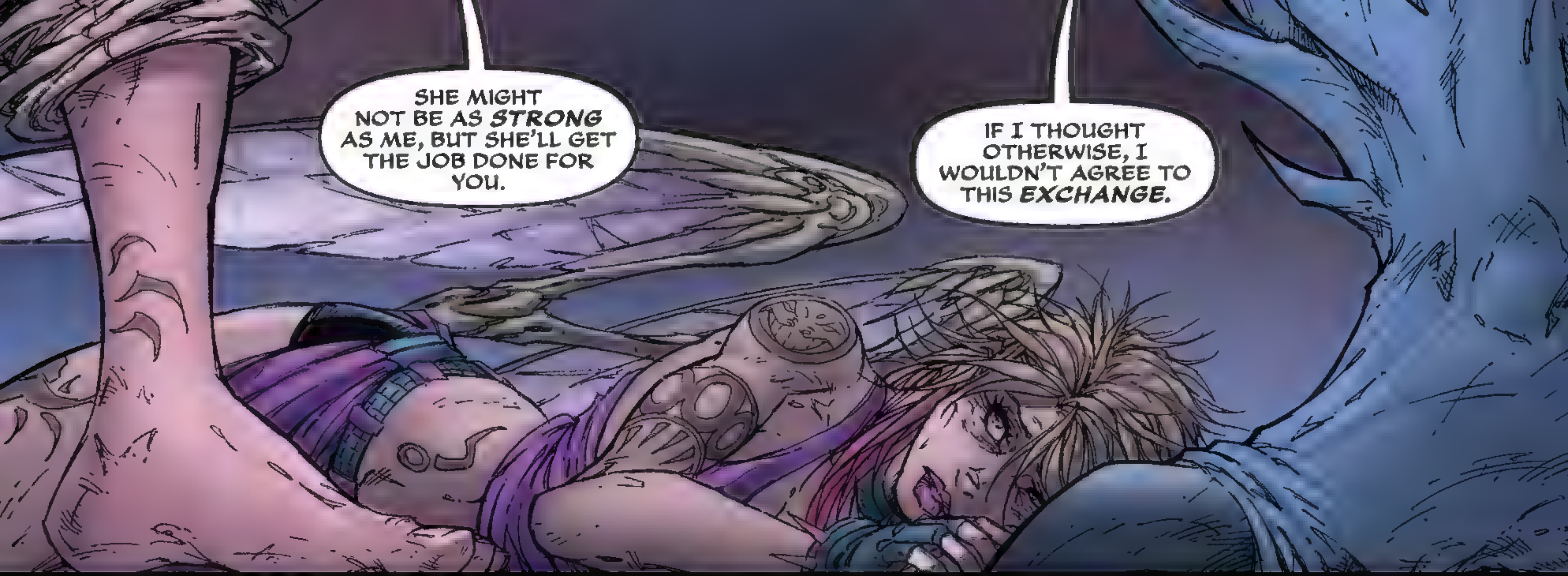
BUT THIS IS
THE **EASIEST**
WAY OUT...



...FOR
ME, THAT
IS.

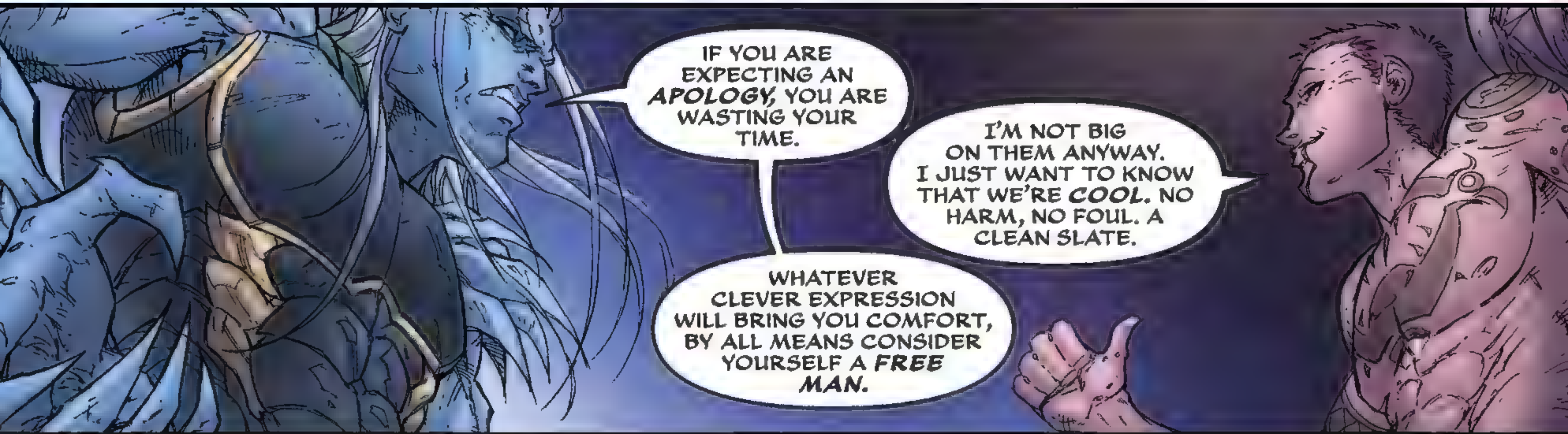


AH, GOOD
'TIL THE LAST
DROP.



SHE MIGHT NOT BE AS **STRONG** AS ME, BUT SHE'LL GET THE JOB DONE FOR YOU.

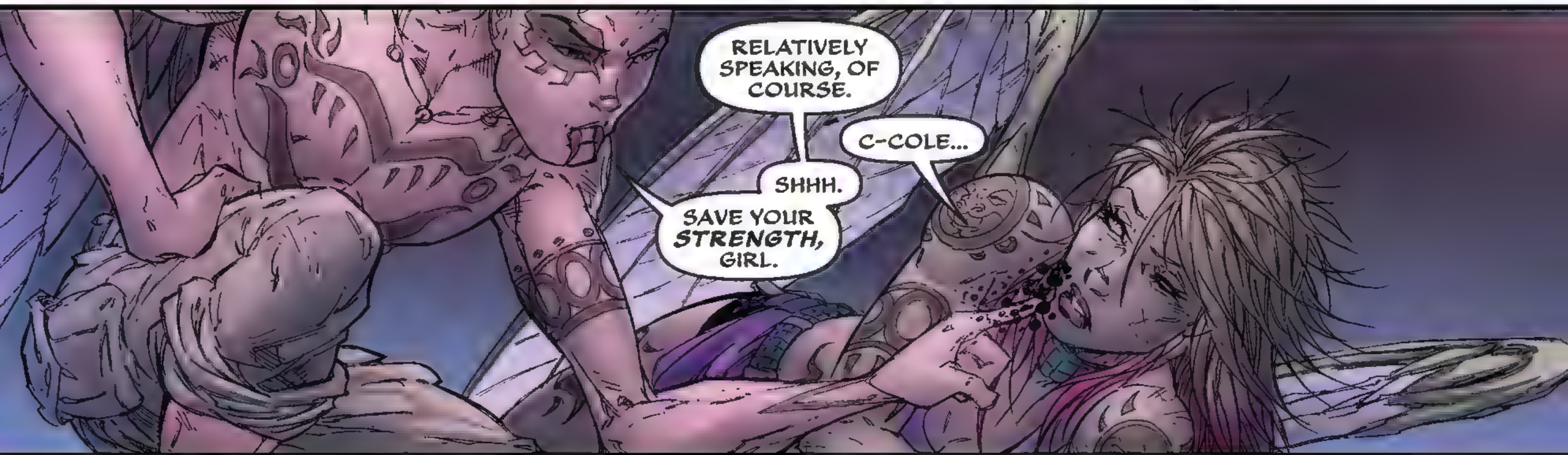
IF I THOUGHT OTHERWISE, I WOULDN'T AGREE TO THIS **EXCHANGE**.



IF YOU ARE EXPECTING AN **APOLOGY**, YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME.

I'M NOT BIG ON THEM ANYWAY. I JUST WANT TO KNOW THAT WE'RE **COOL**. NO HARM, NO FOUL. A CLEAN SLATE.

WHATEVER CLEVER EXPRESSION WILL BRING YOU COMFORT, BY ALL MEANS CONSIDER YOURSELF A **FREE MAN**.

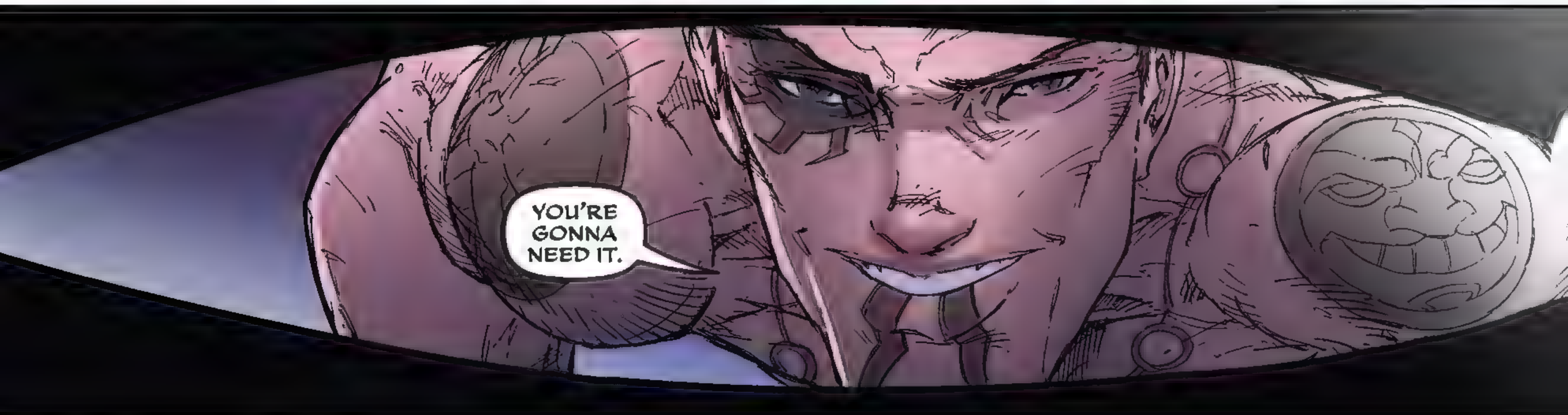


RELATIVELY SPEAKING, OF COURSE.

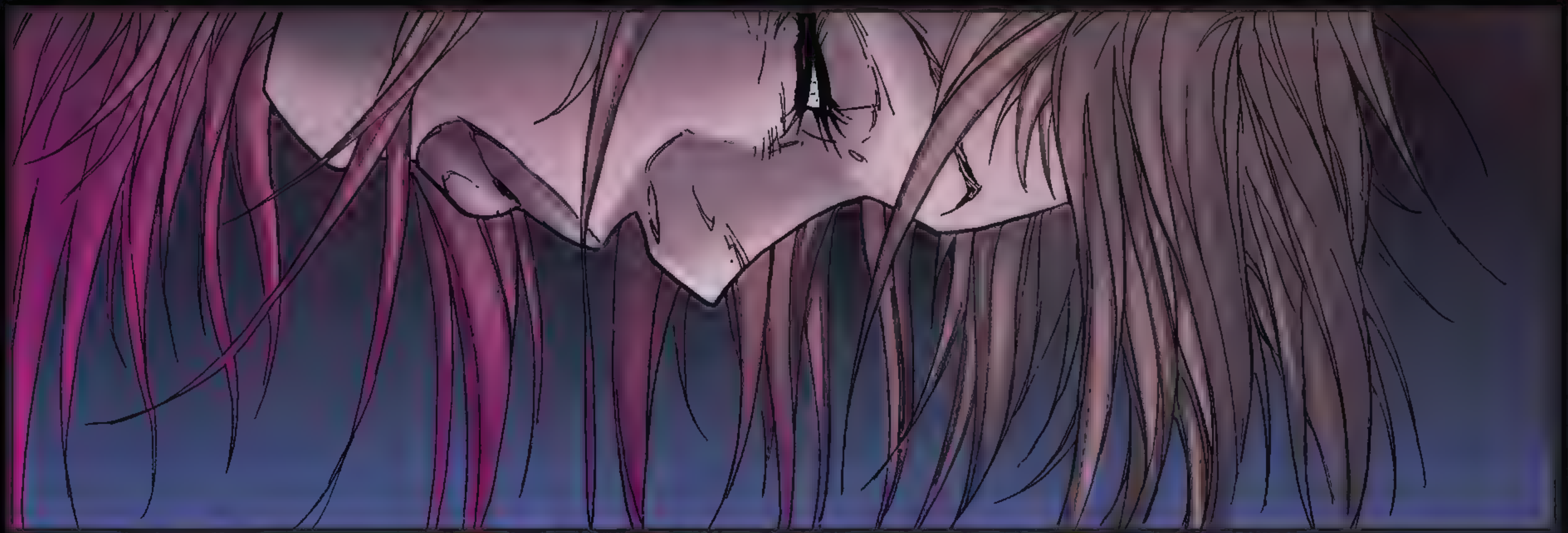
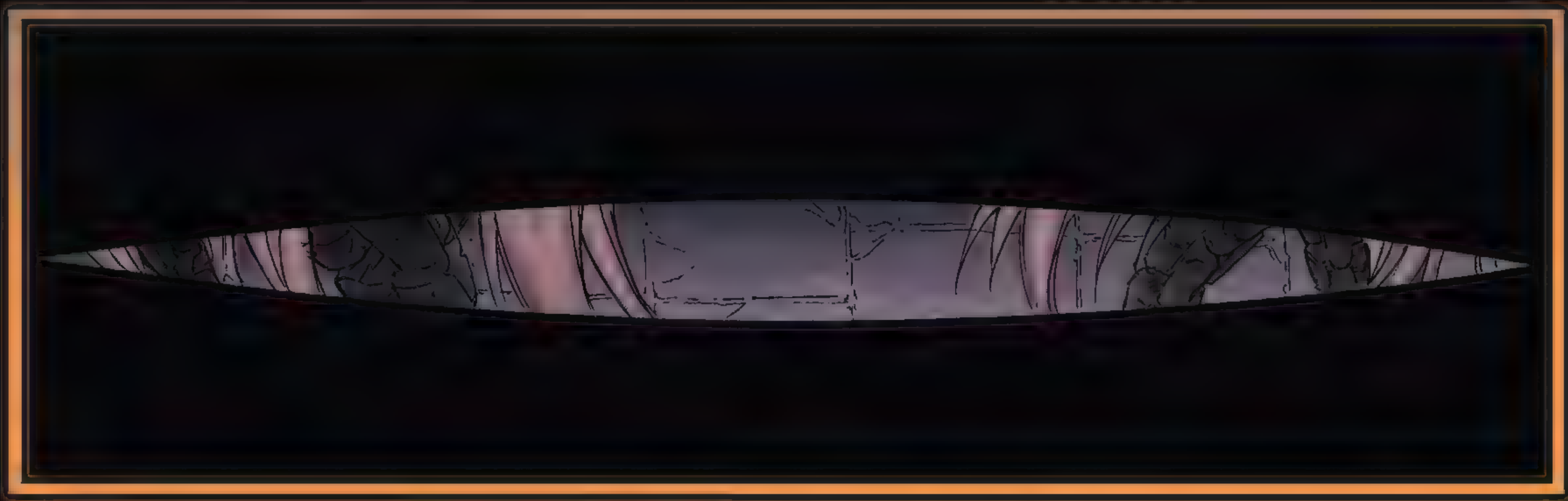
C-COLE...

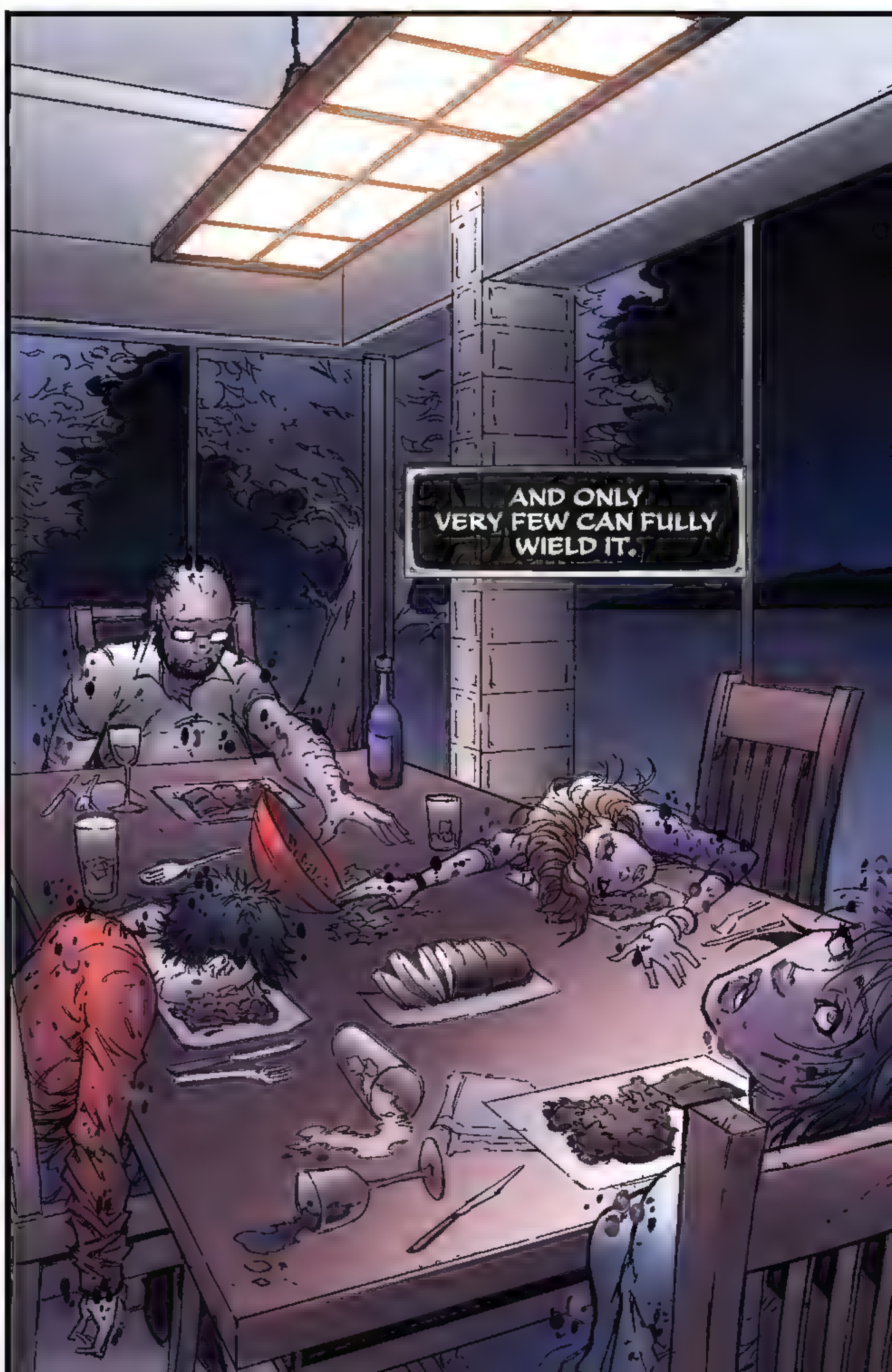
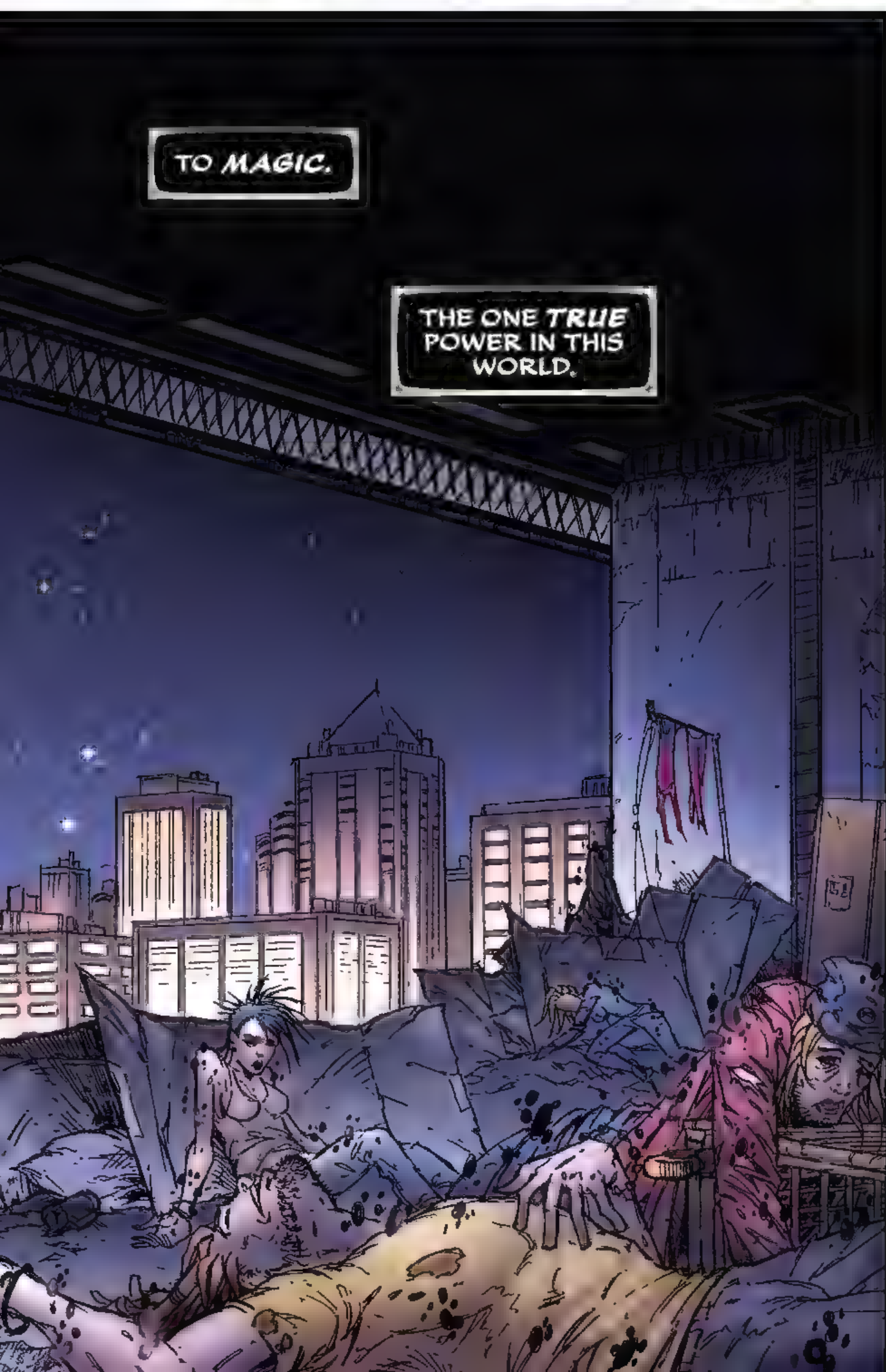
SHHH.

SAVE YOUR **STRENGTH**, GIRL.



YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT.







I WOULD THINK
COLE HAS LEARNED
THAT LESSON.



BUT THEN AGAIN,
I DOUBT IT.

TO BE
CONTINUED
IN... SOULFIRE #7



J.C. KRUL • V Ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

10
FEB
10

#7

COVER A

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE



ARCINIEGA



JOE KRUL • VIKKI MARION • ERIC ARCEMIEGA • JOSH REED

10
FEB
10

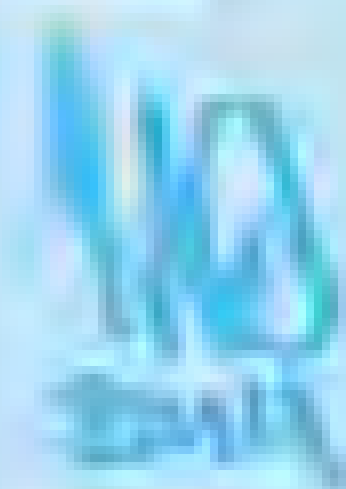
#7

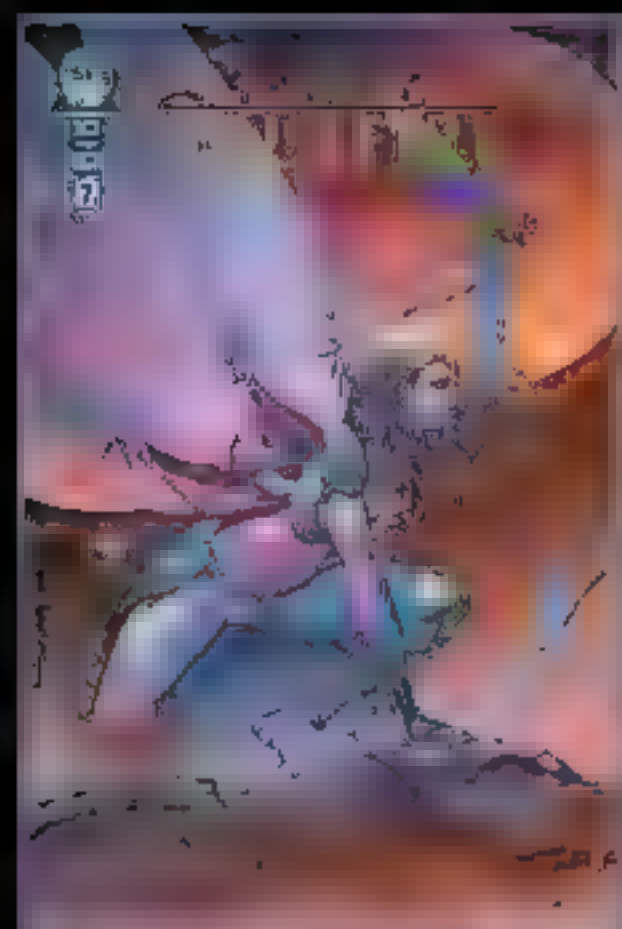
COVER B



JOE KRUL • VIKKI MARION • ERIC ARCEMIEGA • JOSH REED

ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE™

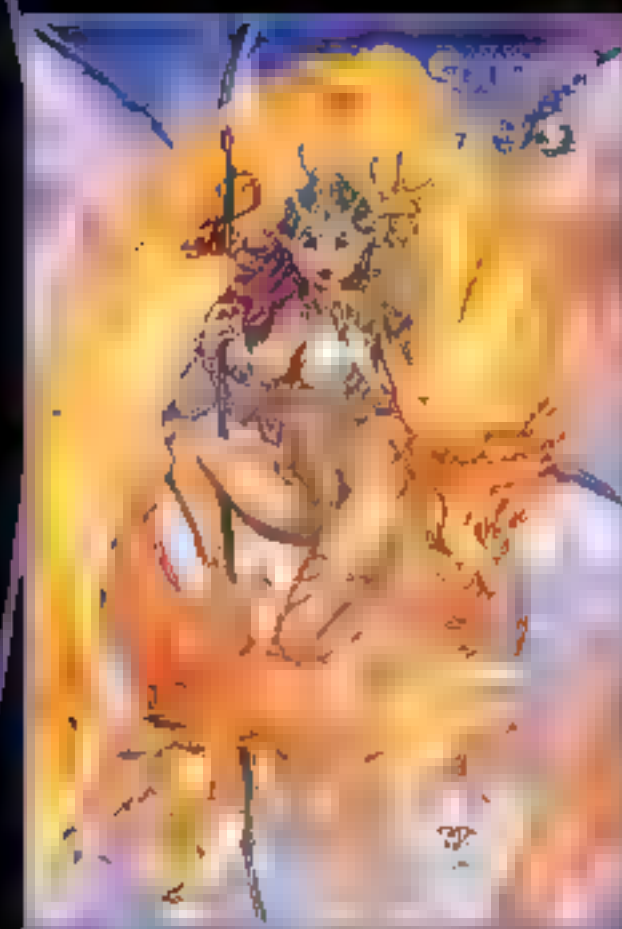




DIRECT EDITION
BY -V KEN MARION
& ERICK ARCINIEGA



DIRECT EDITION
BY -MICAH GUNNELL



DRAGON CON 2014 EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION OF 200
BY -PAOLO PANTALENA
& ULA MOS

J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V. KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

& JOHN ERCIK

digital inks

ERICK ARCINIEGA

& VALENTINA PINTO

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

A L L N E W
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

soulfire created by michael turner

"You Always Hurt The
Ones You Love"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

MALIKAI EXPOSED THE TRUE FALSEHOOD OF MICHAEL,
AND HIS FAKE WINGS TO THE CONGREGATION OF GABRIEL'S
VOICE. HOWEVER, IN DOING SO, HE LEARNED THAT SOME-
TIMES FAITH IS MORE POWERFUL THAN REALITY--AS HENRIC
REVEALED TO HIM THAT HIS FATE IS SEALED--AND THAT
HE IS DYING. MEANWHILE, JAYDEN'S RESCUE OF COLE FROM
RAINIERS CLUTCHES TAUGHT HER A LESSON OF HER OWN--AS
COLE BETRAYED HER TO GAIN HIS OWN FREEDOM, LEAVING
HER TRAPPED AND AT THE MERCY OF THE DARK LORD...

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER

Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD

Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO

VP/Editorial: Vince Hernandez

VP/Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

Editorial Assistants: JOSH REED, ANDREA SHEA

Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS

Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL

AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issues 7

SEPTEMBER 2014 DIGITAL COPY Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite. III, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and the Michael Turner's Soulfire logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

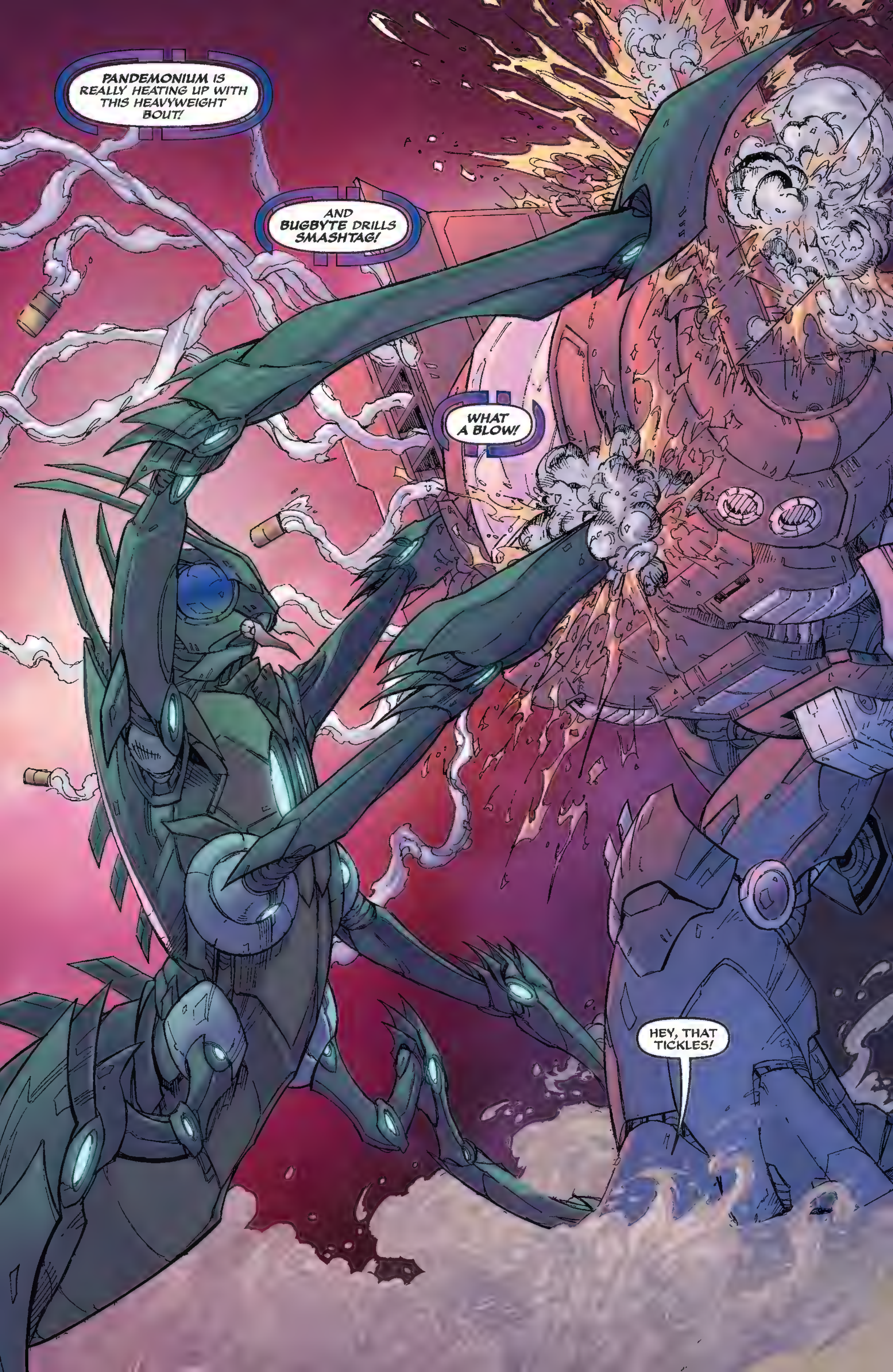
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1-888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@CFLOYSTUDIO.COM]



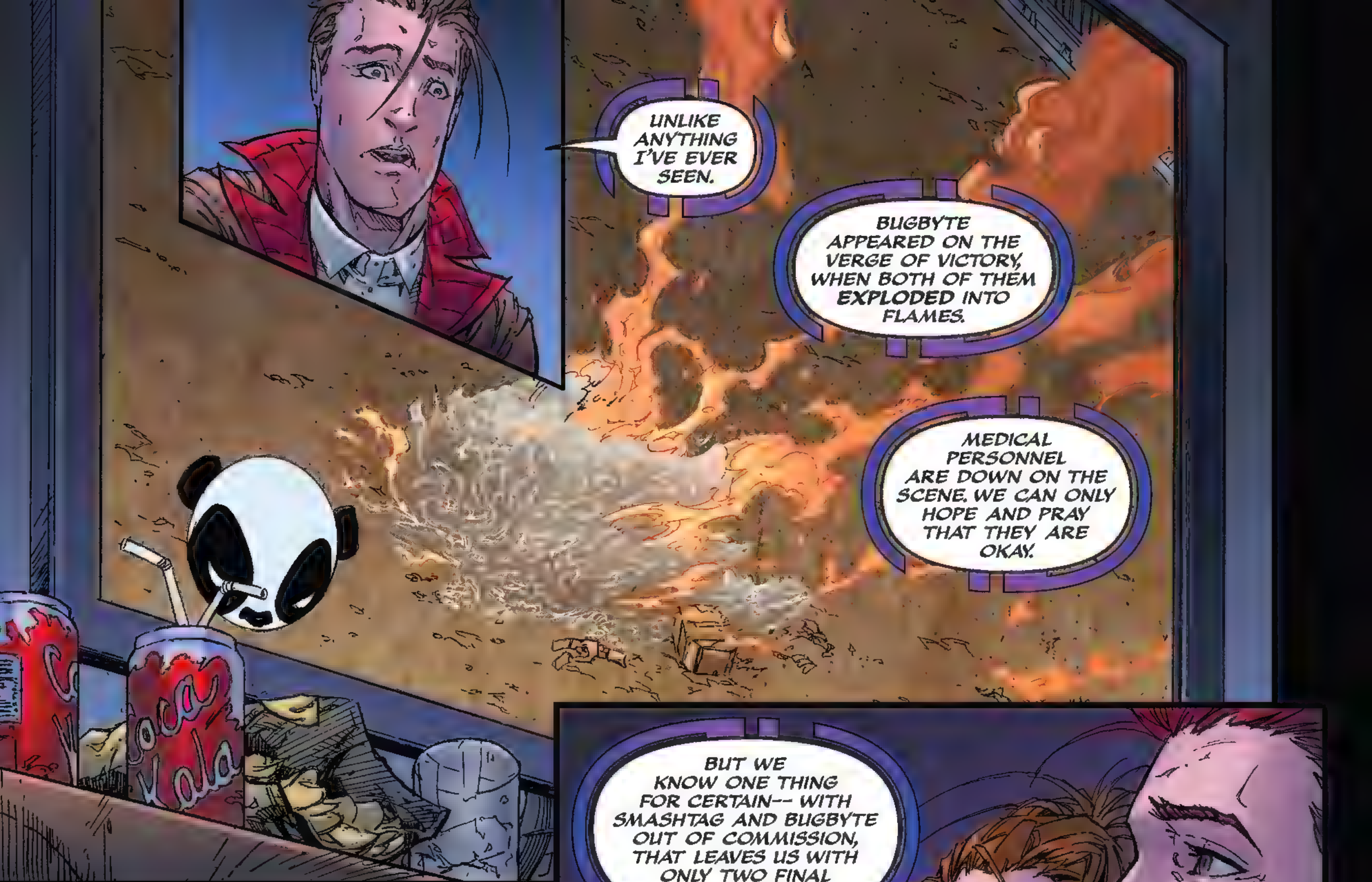
PANDEMONIUM IS
REALLY HEATING UP WITH
THIS HEAVYWEIGHT
BOUT!

AND
BUGBYTE DRILLS
SMASHTAG!

WHAT
A BLOW!

HEY, THAT
TICKLES!

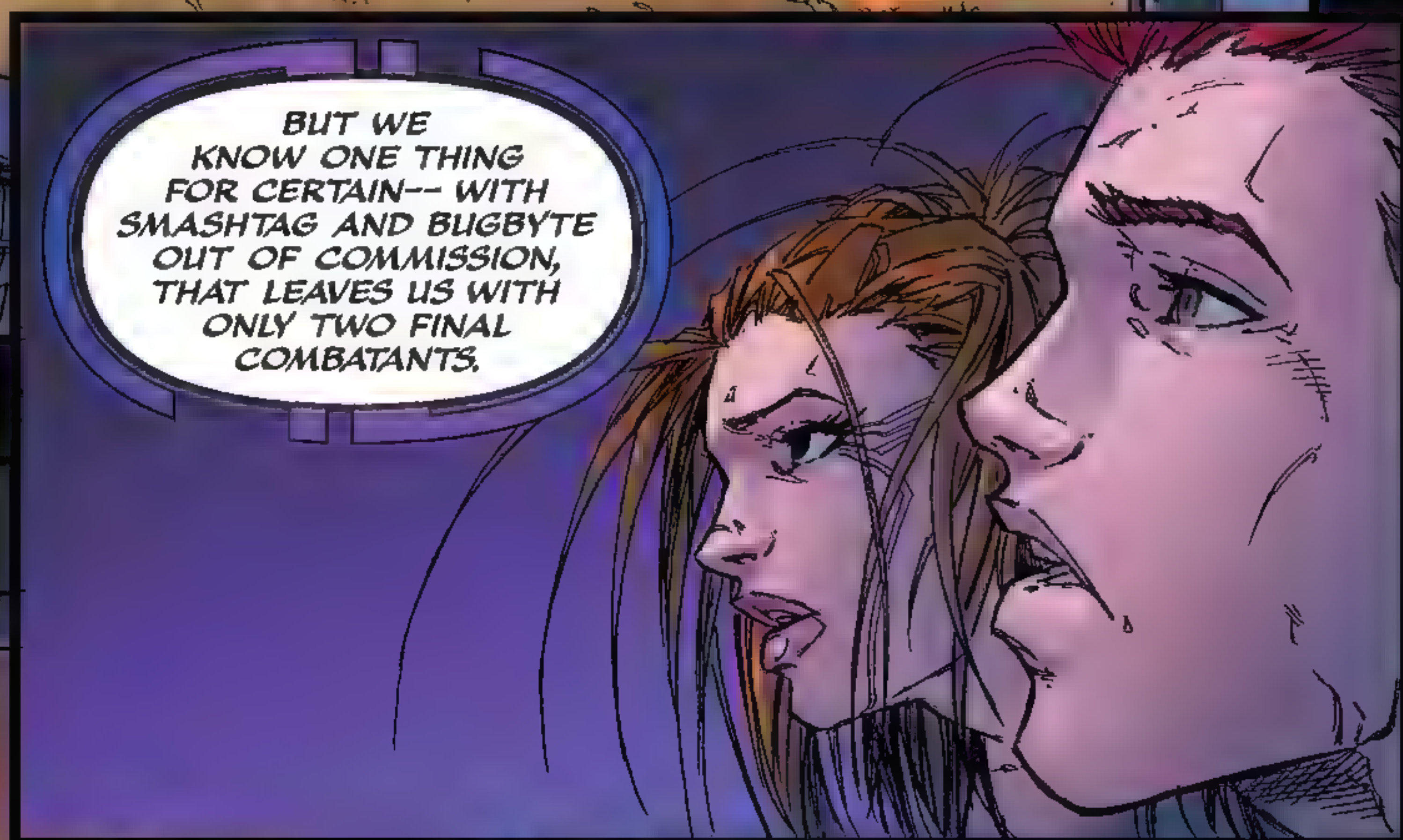




UNLIKE
ANYTHING
I'VE EVER
SEEN.

BUGBYTE
APPEARED ON THE
VERGE OF VICTORY,
WHEN BOTH OF THEM
EXPLODED INTO
FLAMES.

MEDICAL
PERSONNEL
ARE DOWN ON THE
SCENE. WE CAN ONLY
HOPE AND PRAY
THAT THEY ARE
OKAY.



BUT WE
KNOW ONE THING
FOR CERTAIN-- WITH
SMASHTAG AND BUGBYTE
OUT OF COMMISSION,
THAT LEAVES US WITH
ONLY TWO FINAL
COMBATANTS.



P.J. AND ALORI...
BETTER KNOWN AS
TINDERBOX!

FINALS!



HAS ANYONE HEARD ABOUT THEIR CONDITIONS?

BUGBYTE SUFFERED THIRD DEGREE BURNS OVER 90% OF HIS BODY. SMASHTAG FARED BETTER IN THAT DEPARTMENT BUT LOST A LEG IN THE BLAST.

THAT'S AWFUL.



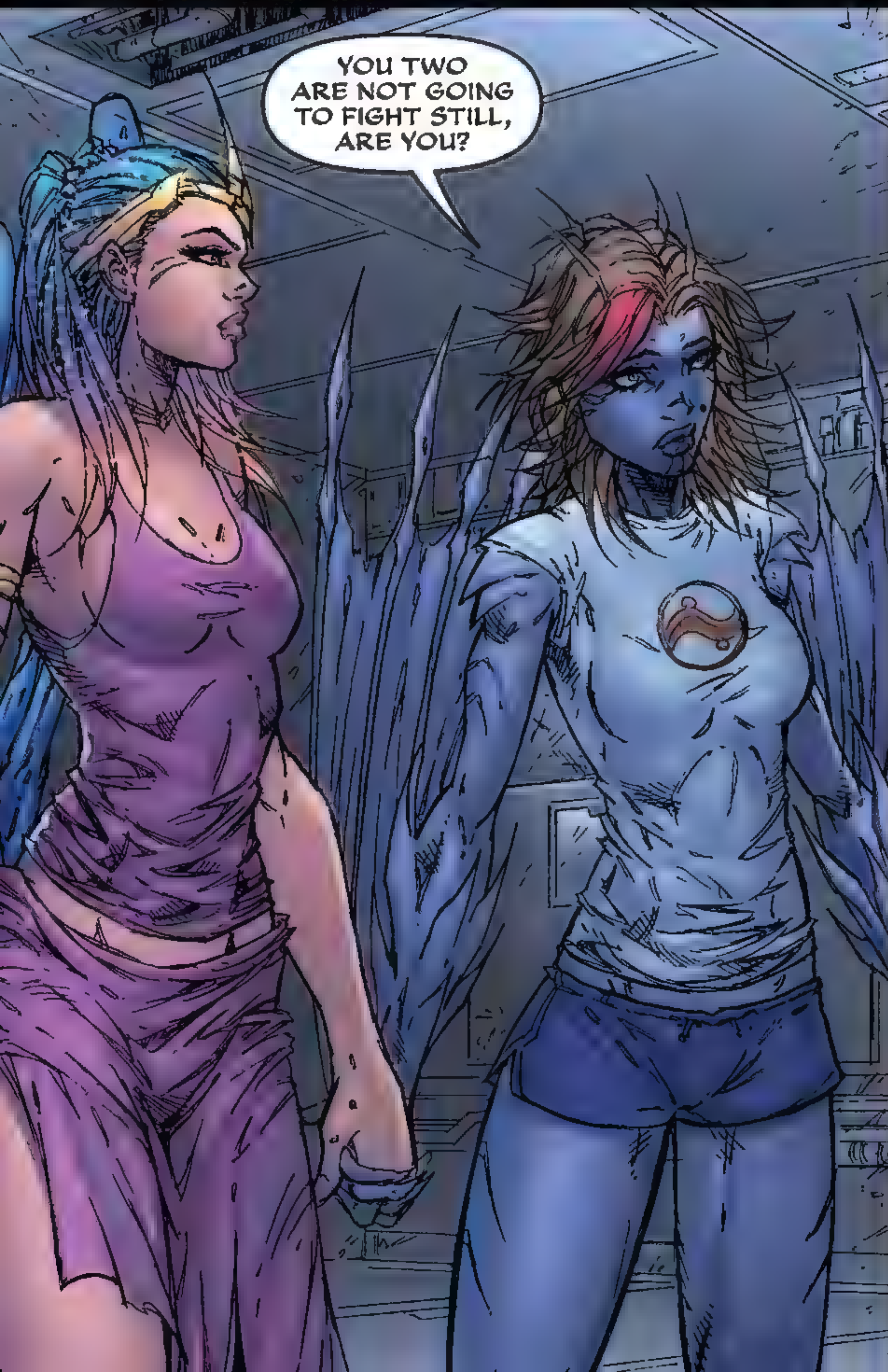
SURE. SO WAS BRIX. AND THOSE CYBERWOLVES THAT ATTACKED YOU WERE JUST OUT FOR A NIGHTLY STROLL.

BENOIST, YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING THIS FOOTAGE FOR HOURS. GIVE IT A REST. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. PROBABLY A RUPTURED POWER SOURCE.

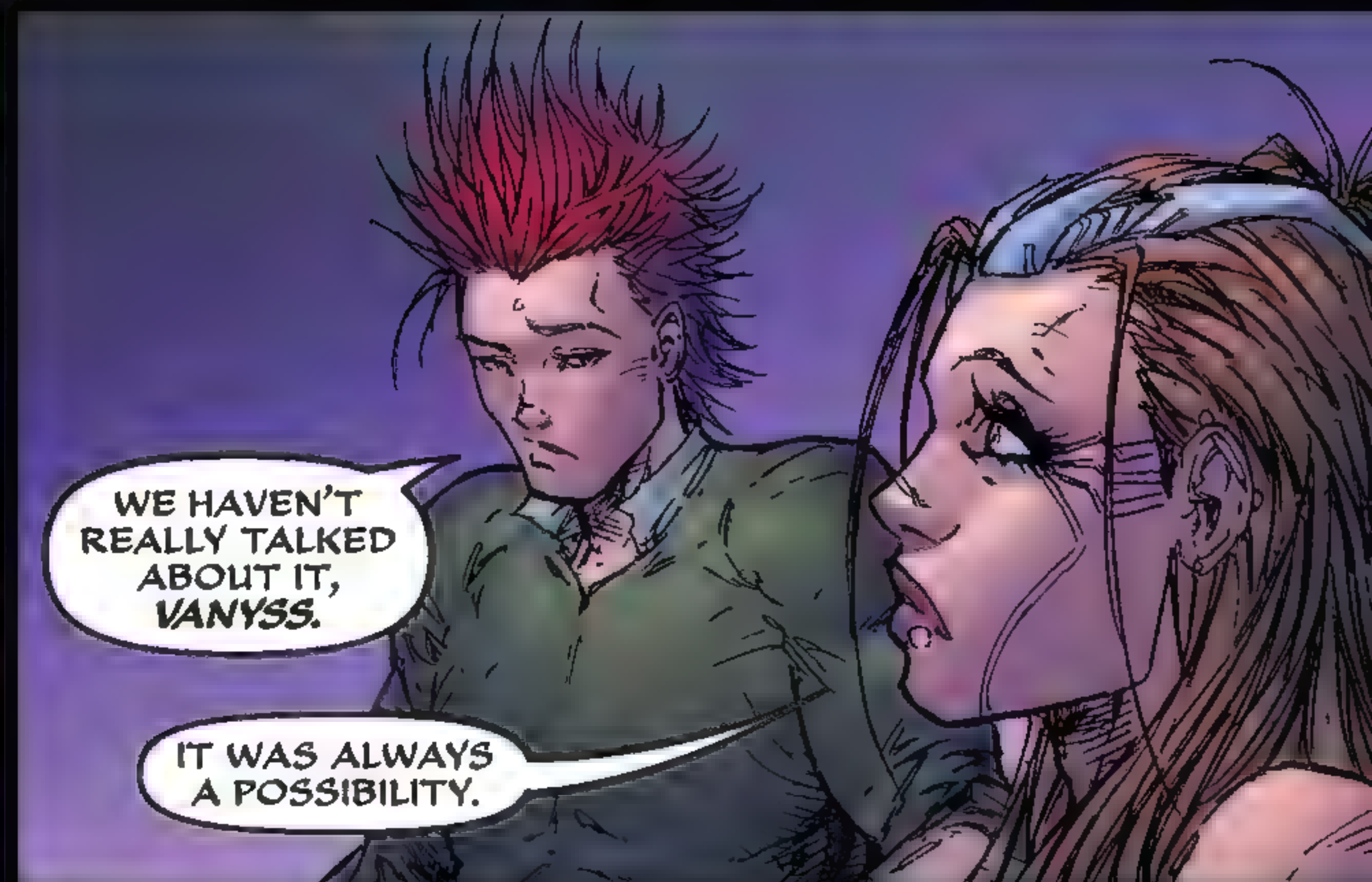


IT'S ABEL. HE'S BEHIND ALL OF THIS. I KNOW IT.

ONLY THING IS-- HE'S USUALLY ALL TOO EAGER TO BOAST HIS ACCOLADES. HE LIKES THE ATTENTION.

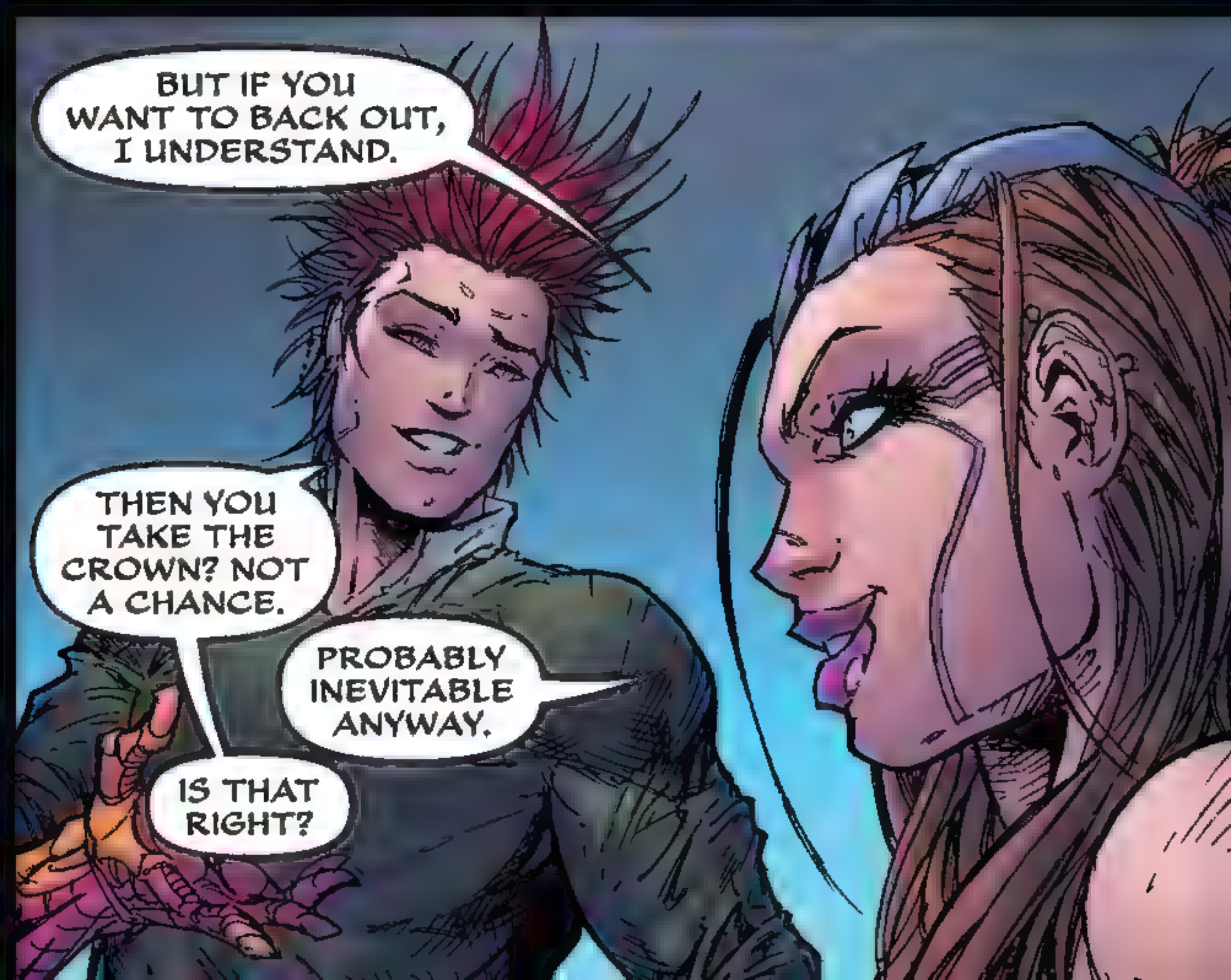


YOU TWO ARE NOT GOING TO FIGHT STILL, ARE YOU?



WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED ABOUT IT, VANYSS.

IT WAS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY.



BUT IF YOU WANT TO BACK OUT, I UNDERSTAND.

THEN YOU TAKE THE CROWN? NOT A CHANCE.

PROBABLY INEVITABLE ANYWAY.

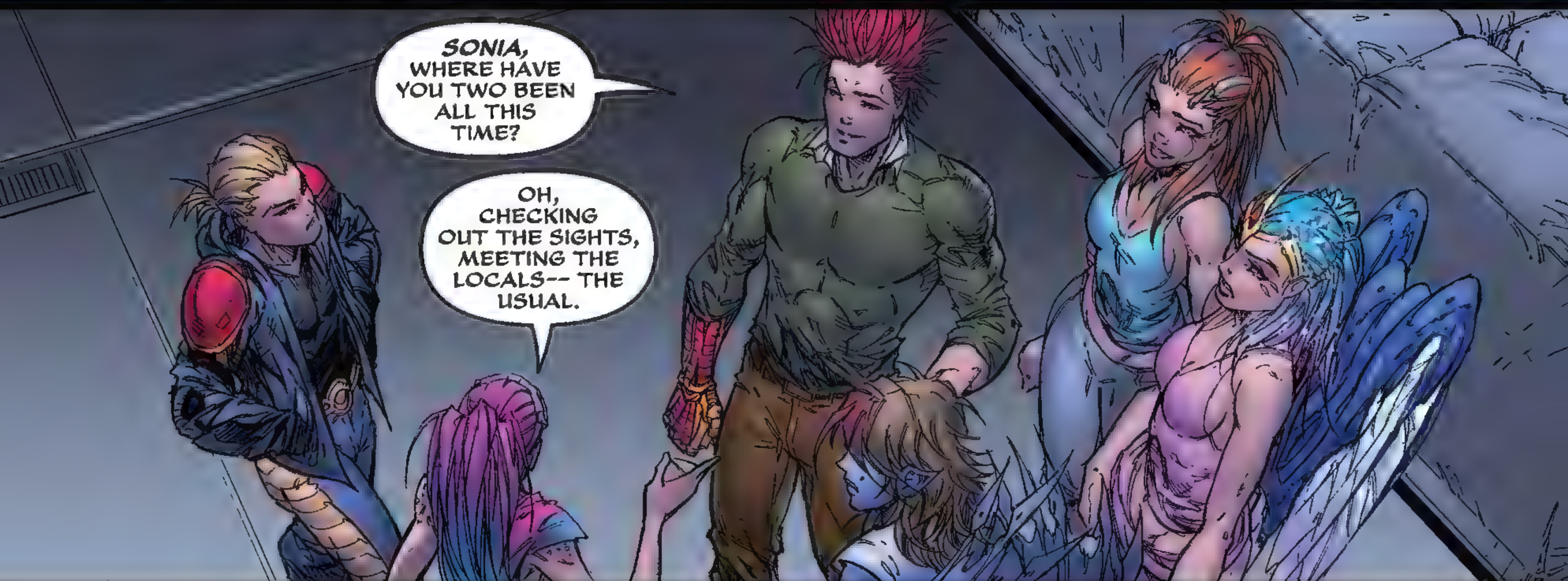
IS THAT RIGHT?



HEY
LOSERS!
WHAT'D WE
MISS?



UM,
LOOKS LIKE
A LOT.



SONIA,
WHERE HAVE
YOU TWO BEEN
ALL THIS
TIME?

OH,
CHECKING
OUT THE SIGHTS,
MEETING THE
LOCALS-- THE
USUAL.



WHAT'S
UP WITH
MAL?

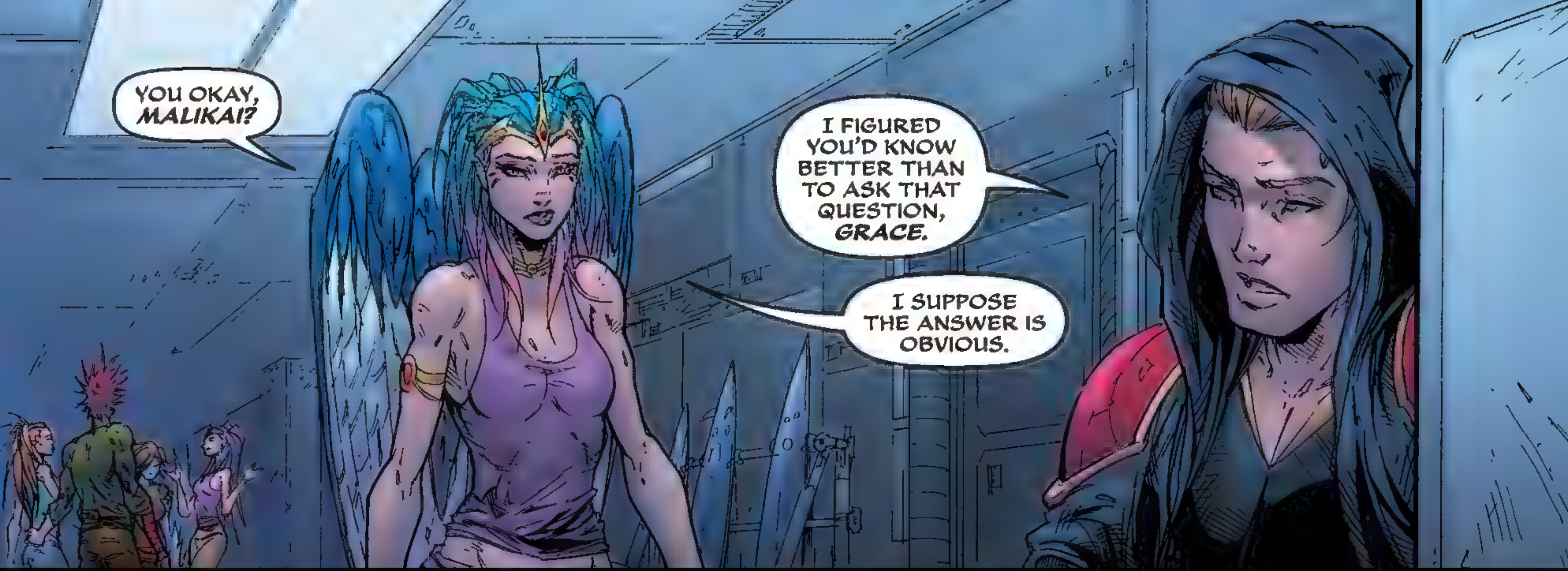
HE'S
JUST BEING
STUPID.

ARE
YOU GUYS, LIKE,
FIGHTING AGAIN?
CLASSIC.

SHUT UP,
P.J. AND NO,
WE AREN'T
FIGHTING.



NOT
REALLY.



YOU OKAY, MALIKAI?

I FIGURED YOU'D KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK THAT QUESTION, *GRACE*.

I SUPPOSE THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS.



MAGIC. YOU'D THINK IT WOULD BE SUCH A WONDERFUL THING. AND IT CAN BE. BUT SOMETIMES...

SOMETIMES, LET'S FACE IT-- IT *SUCKS*.



WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO TOLD ME I NEEDED TO LET GO OF THINGS, LEARN TO RELAX AND SIMPLY *ENJOY* THE PRESENT?

YEAH-- SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I WOULD SAY.



AND BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS-- YOU HAVE.

VANYSS SEEMS TO GET YOU TO ACTUALLY *SMILE*.

WHEN THE
LIGHT OF MAGIC
FADED ALL THOSE YEARS
AGO-- I LOST NEARLY
EVERYONE I CARED
ABOUT.

AND
WHILE I **LIVED**,
I THOUGHT A PART
OF ME **DIED** WITH
THEM.

BUT IT DIDN'T. I
MERELY LOCKED IT AWAY.
SUPPRESSED ANY FEELINGS
OF LOVE AND REFUSED TO
ALLOW MYSELF ANY
CONNECTIONS.

VANYSS
HAS ENDED
ALL THAT. SHE HAS
HELPED ME TO OPEN
MY **HEART** ONCE
MORE.

SEEING
HOW SHE HAS
EMBRACED THE MAGIC,
WHOLEHEARTEDLY--
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I
AM LEARNING A LOT
FROM HER.

AND IT'S
WONDERFUL.

THAT'S
AWESOME, GRACE.
IF ANYONE DESERVES
HAPPINESS IN THEIR
LIFE, IT'S YOU.

BUT,
YOU DO
NOT?

I DO.

JUST NOT
TODAY.

LATER.

YOU
READY?

ALWAYS,
PAPA BEAR.

YOU HAVE
TO DO SOMETHING
FOR ME. SOMETHING
YOU AREN'T USED
TO DOING, KID.

I NEED
YOU TO BE
CAREFUL.

AH, RELAX,
MAN. ALORI IS MY
GIRL. WRESTLING
AIN'T NOTHING
NEW TO US.

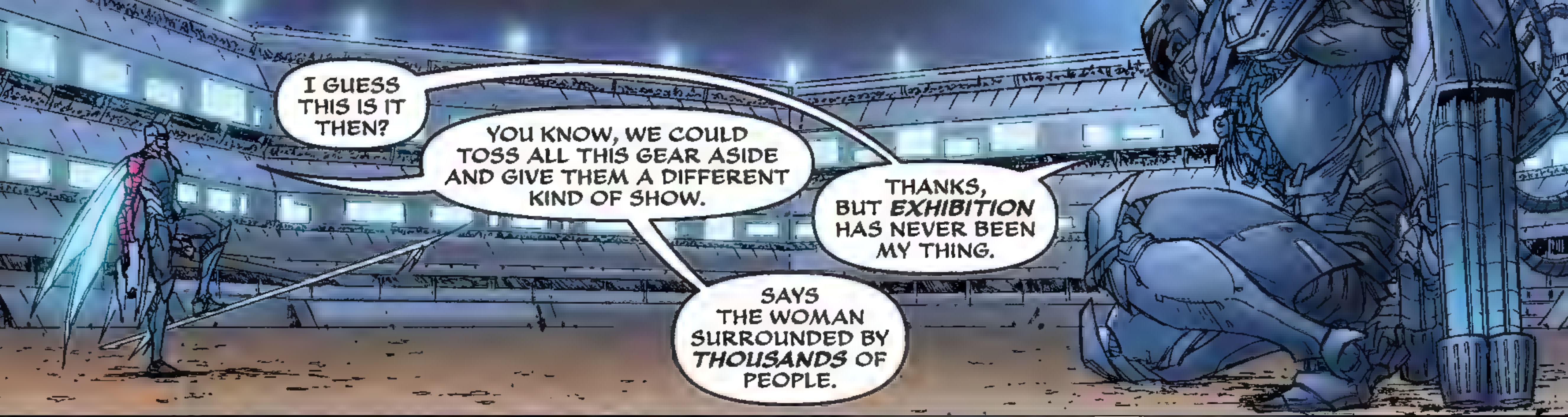
THIS TIME,
WE'RE JUST
USING TOYS--
THAT'S ALL.

THAT'S
NOT IT. THIS
CONTEST IS NOT
A GAME. NOT
ANYMORE,
P.J.

ABEL
IS OUT THERE.
HE'S PLANNING
SOMETHING. COMING
AFTER ME. WHICH
MEANS COMING
AFTER YOU.

SO, YOU
HAVE TO BE
READY...

...FOR
ANYTHING.



I GUESS
THIS IS IT
THEN?

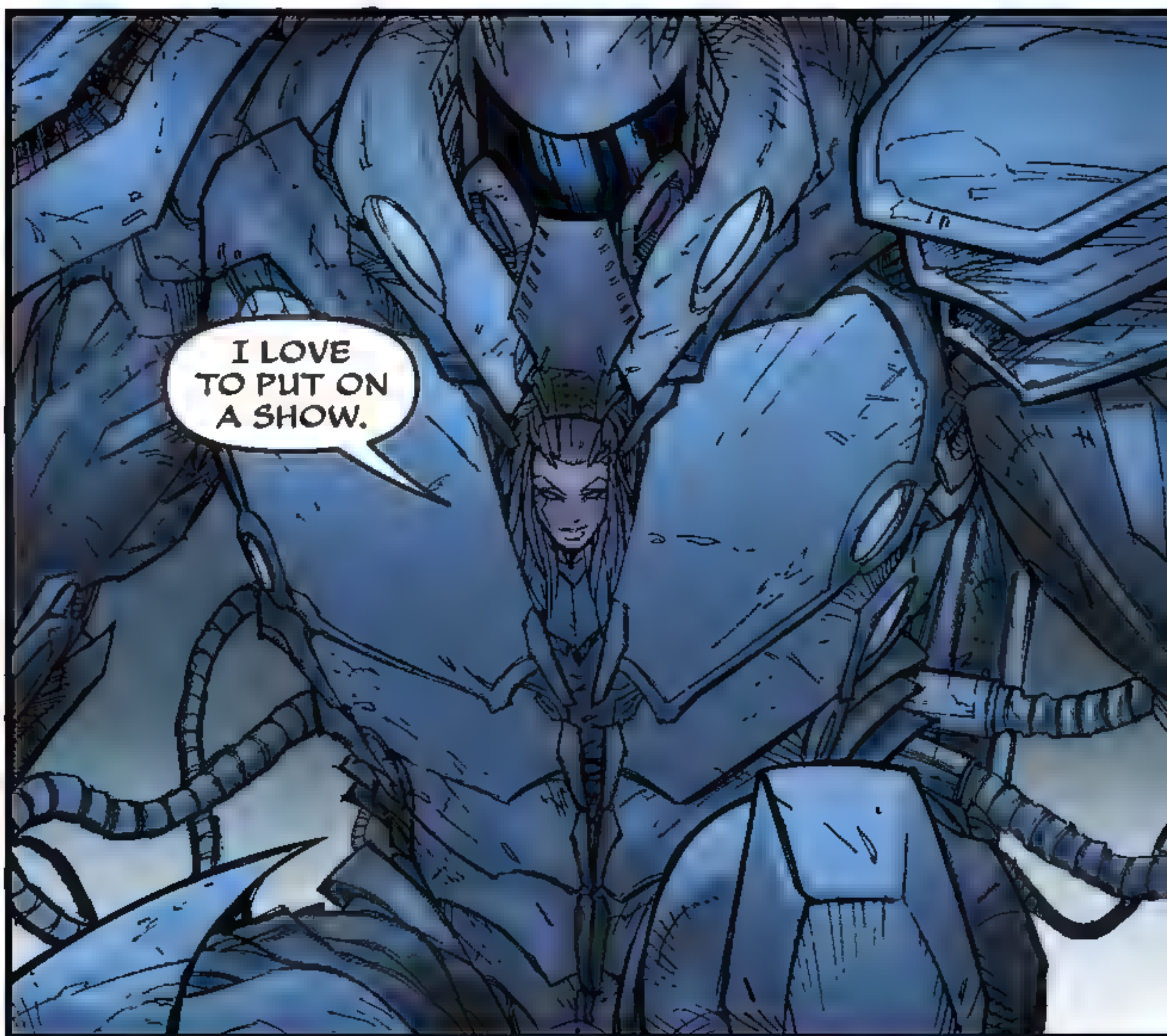
YOU KNOW, WE COULD
TOSS ALL THIS GEAR ASIDE
AND GIVE THEM A DIFFERENT
KIND OF SHOW.

THANKS,
BUT **EXHIBITION**
HAS NEVER BEEN
MY THING.

SAYS
THE WOMAN
SURROUNDED BY
THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE.



OKAY,
YOU GOT
ME.



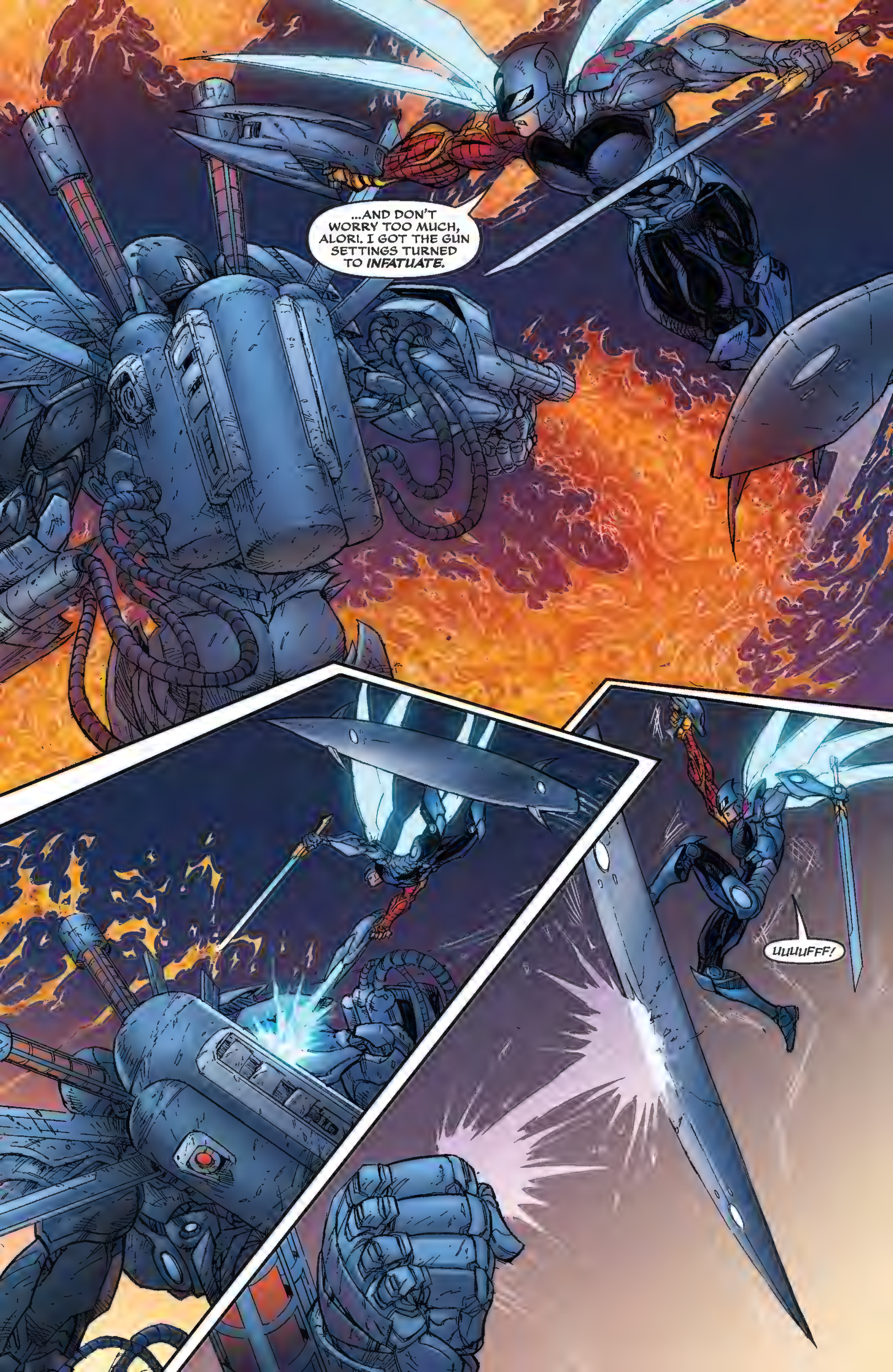
I LOVE
TO PUT ON
A SHOW.



JUST REMEMBER
THE FIRST RULE OF
PANDEMONIUM.

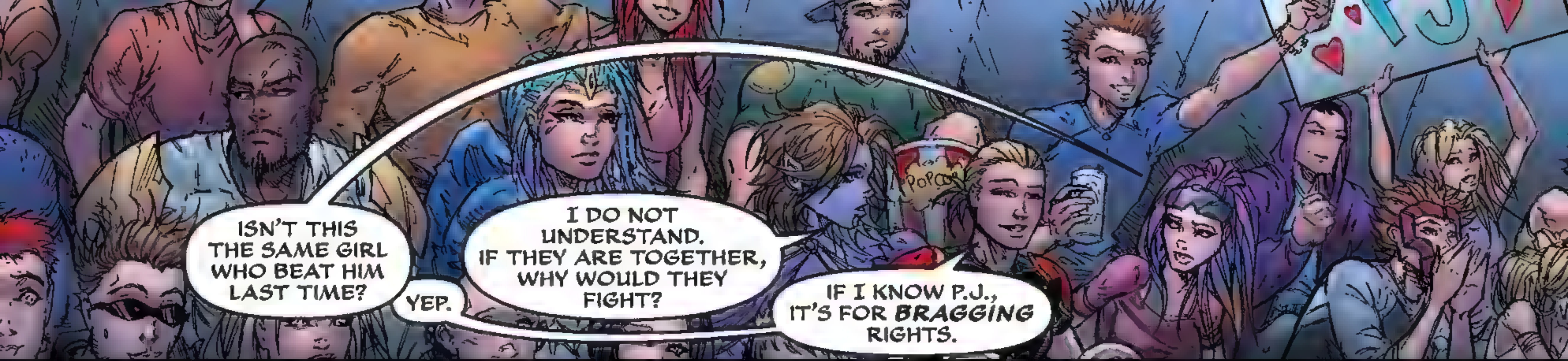
WHAT'S THAT?

DON'T
BREAK YOUR
BOYFRIEND...



...AND DON'T
WORRY TOO MUCH,
ALOR. I GOT THE GUN
SETTINGS TURNED
TO INFATUATE.

UUUUFFF!

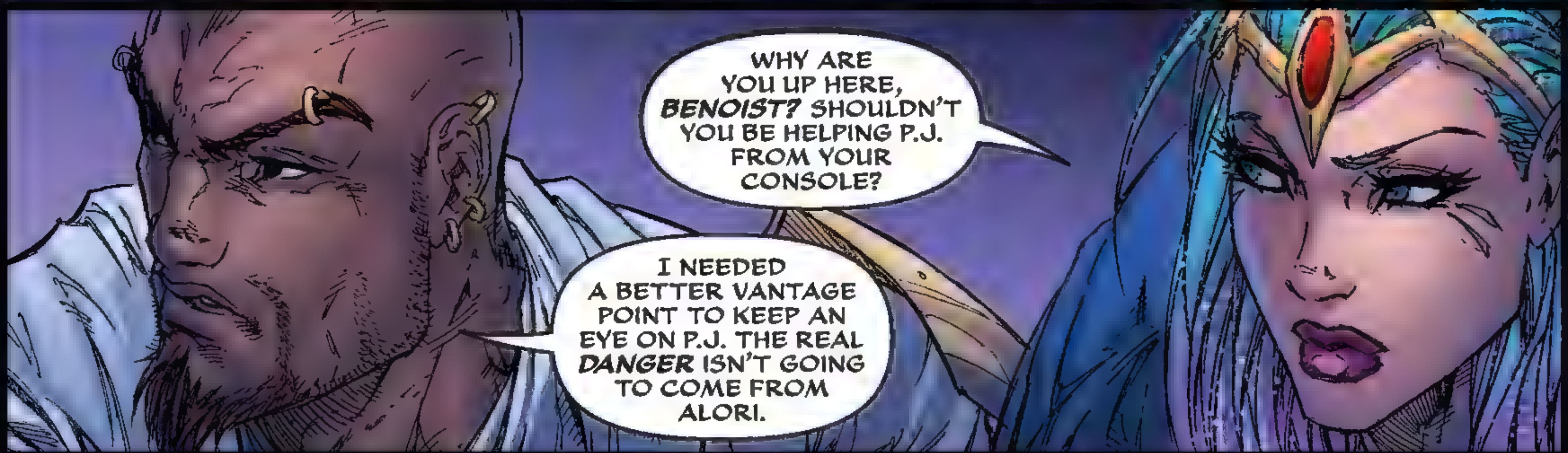


ISN'T THIS
THE SAME GIRL
WHO BEAT HIM
LAST TIME?

YEP.

I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.
IF THEY ARE TOGETHER,
WHY WOULD THEY
FIGHT?

IF I KNOW P.J.,
IT'S FOR **BRAGGING**
RIGHTS.

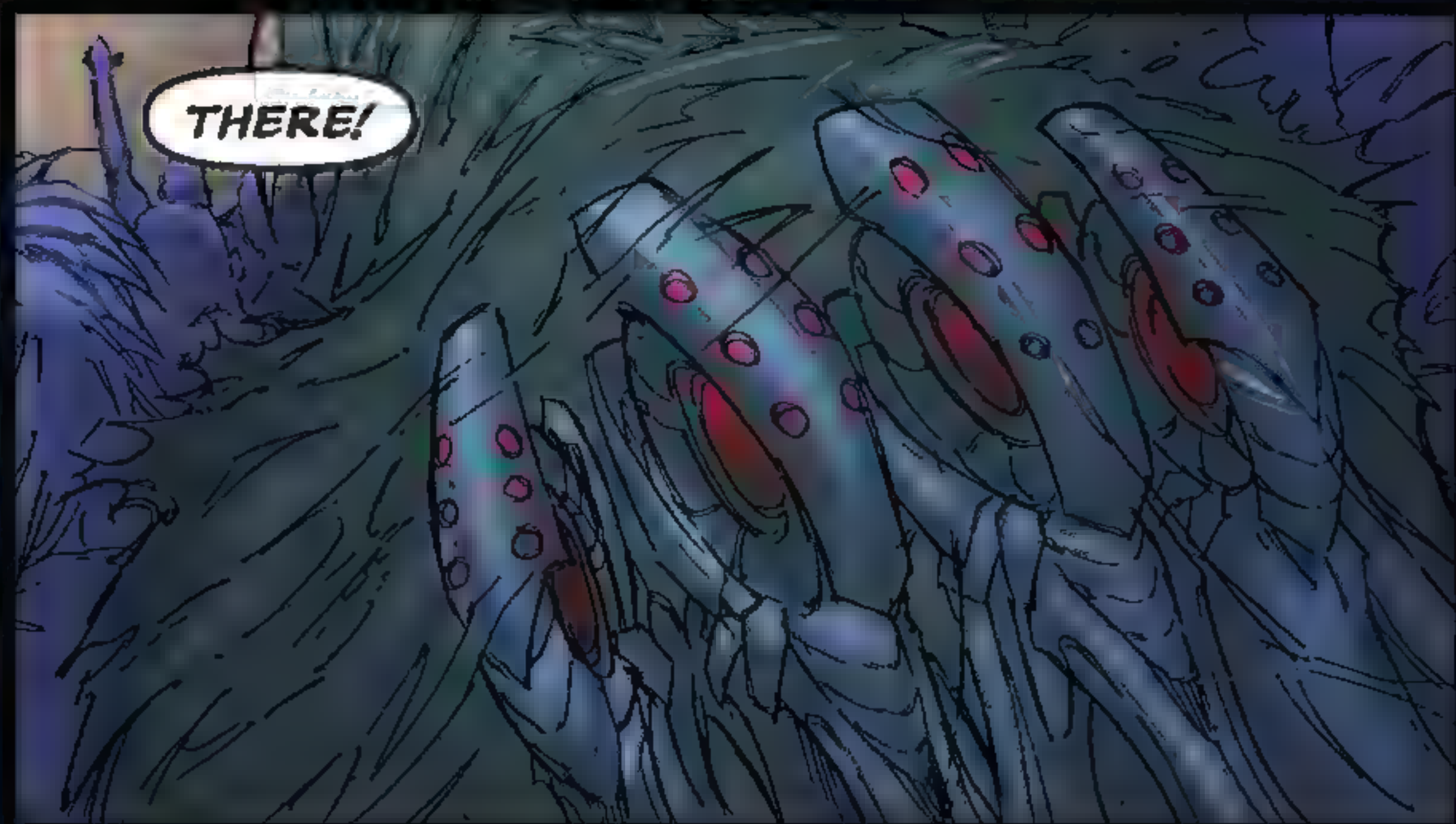
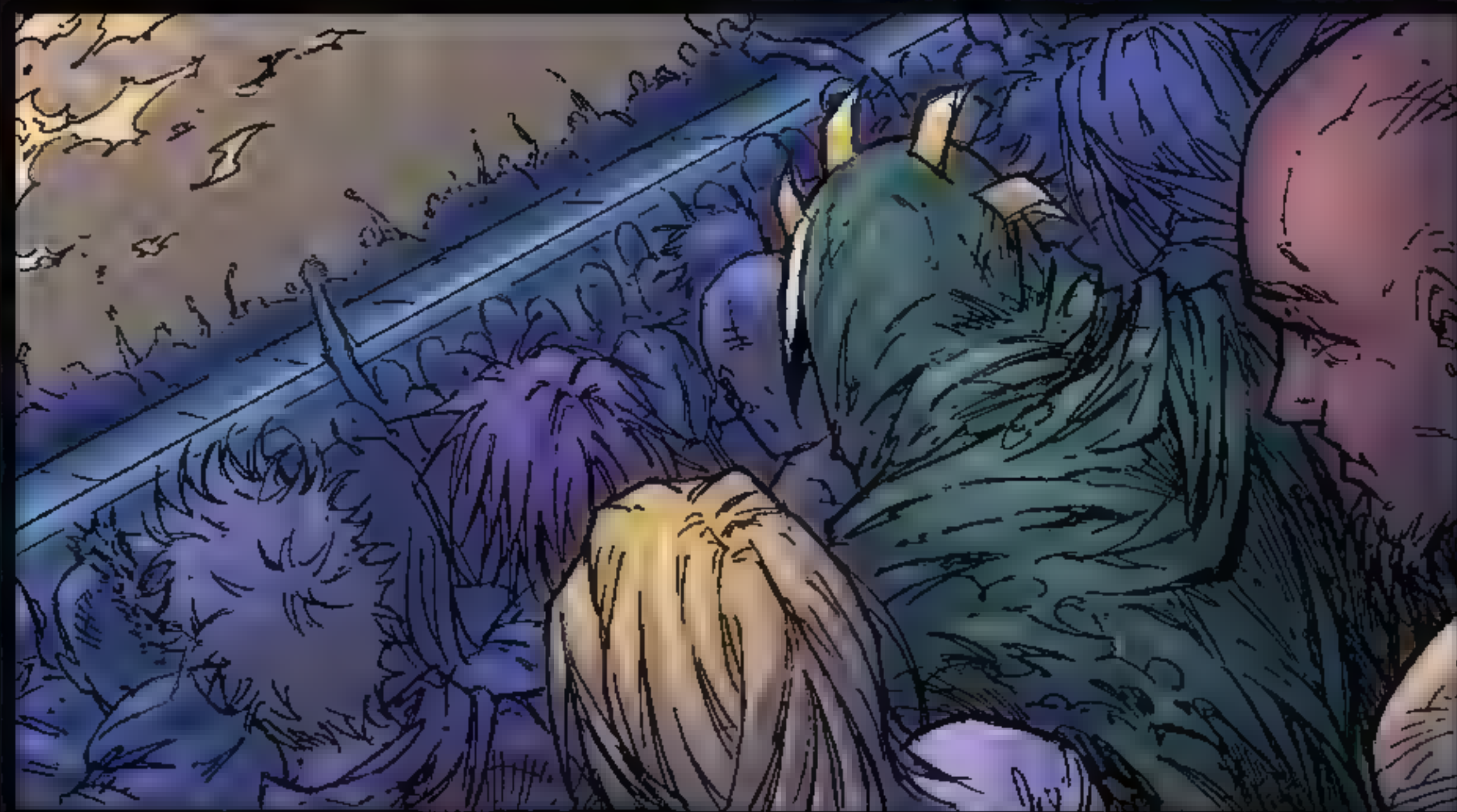
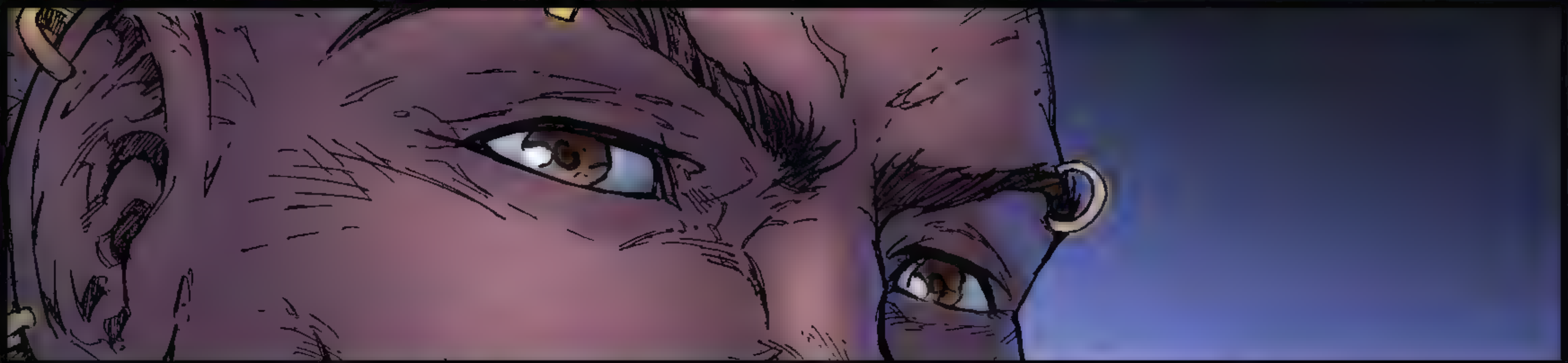


WHY ARE
YOU UP HERE,
BENOIST? SHOULDN'T
YOU BE HELPING P.J.
FROM YOUR
CONSOLE?

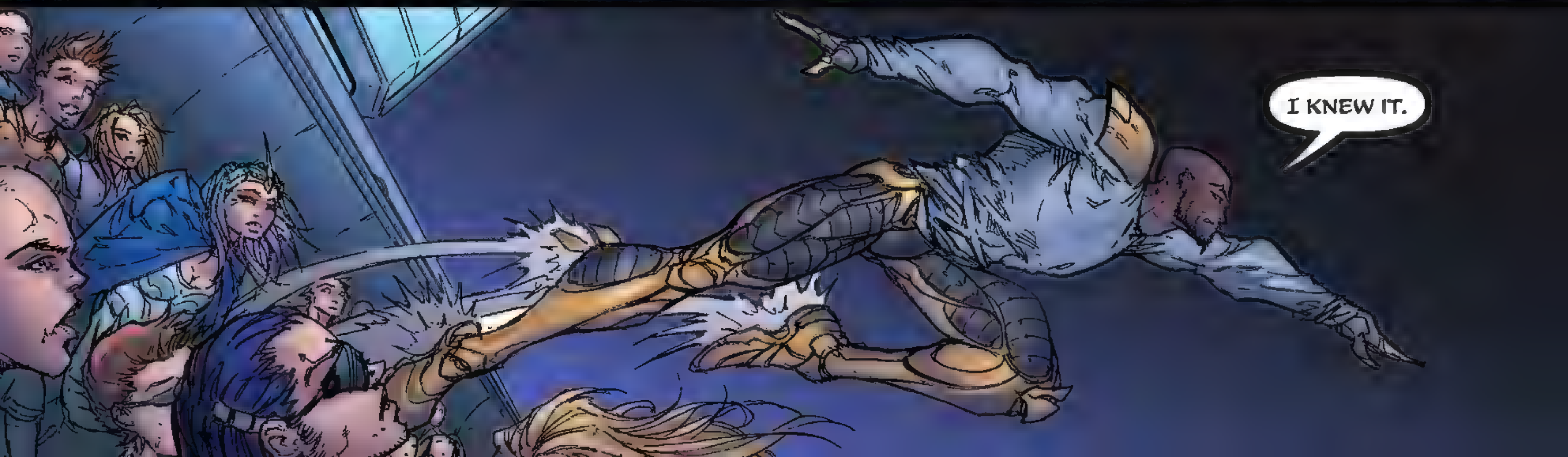
I NEEDED
A BETTER VANTAGE
POINT TO KEEP AN
EYE ON P.J. THE REAL
DANGER ISN'T GOING
TO COME FROM
ALORI.



YOU MIGHT
WANT TO TELL
HIM THAT.

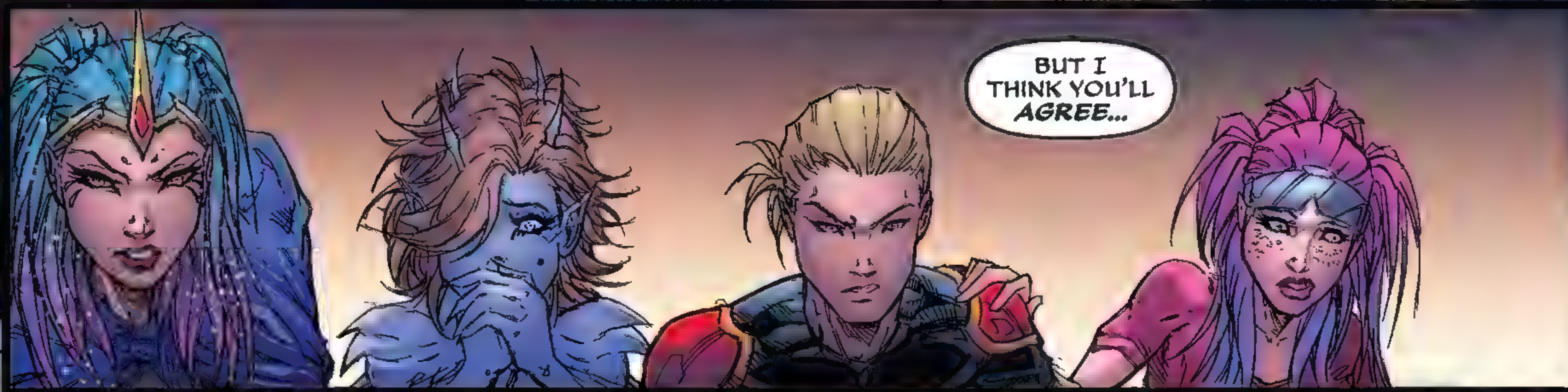
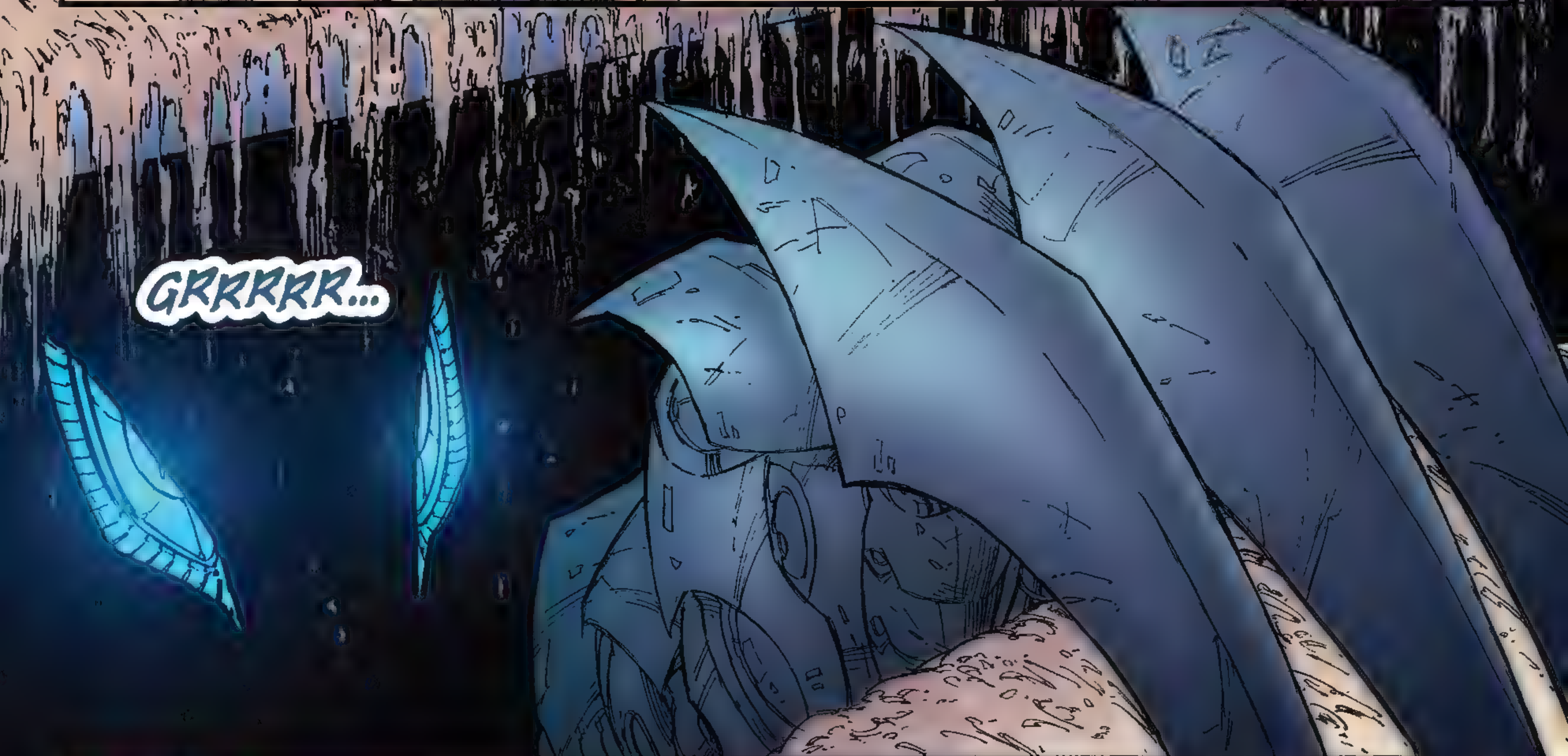
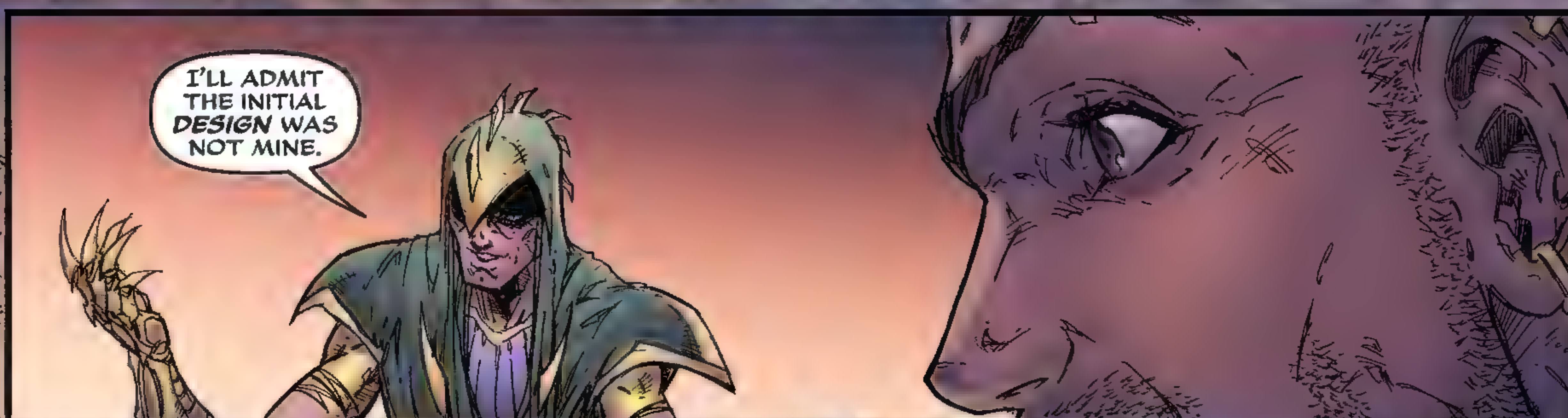


THERE!



I KNEW IT.

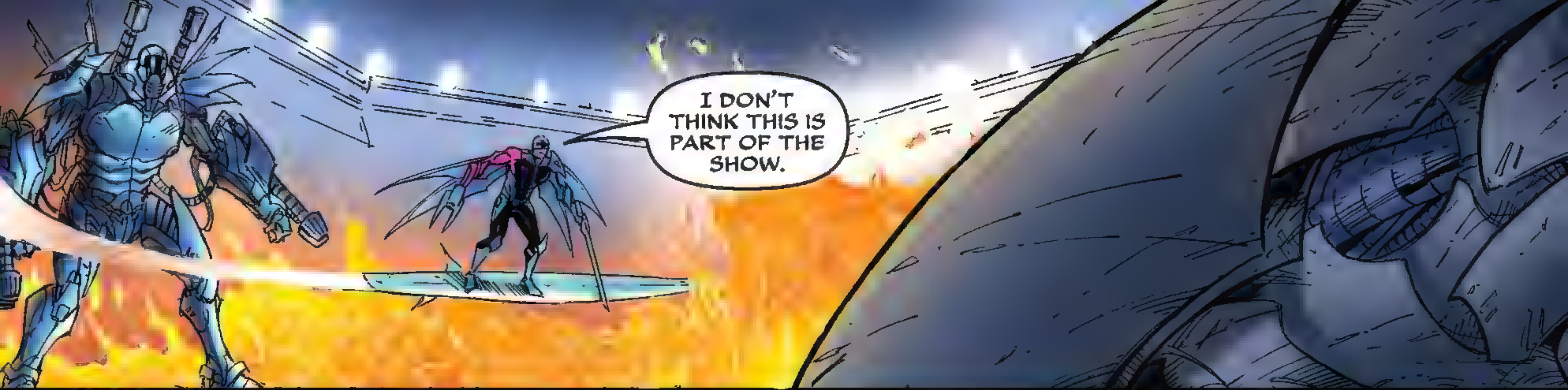




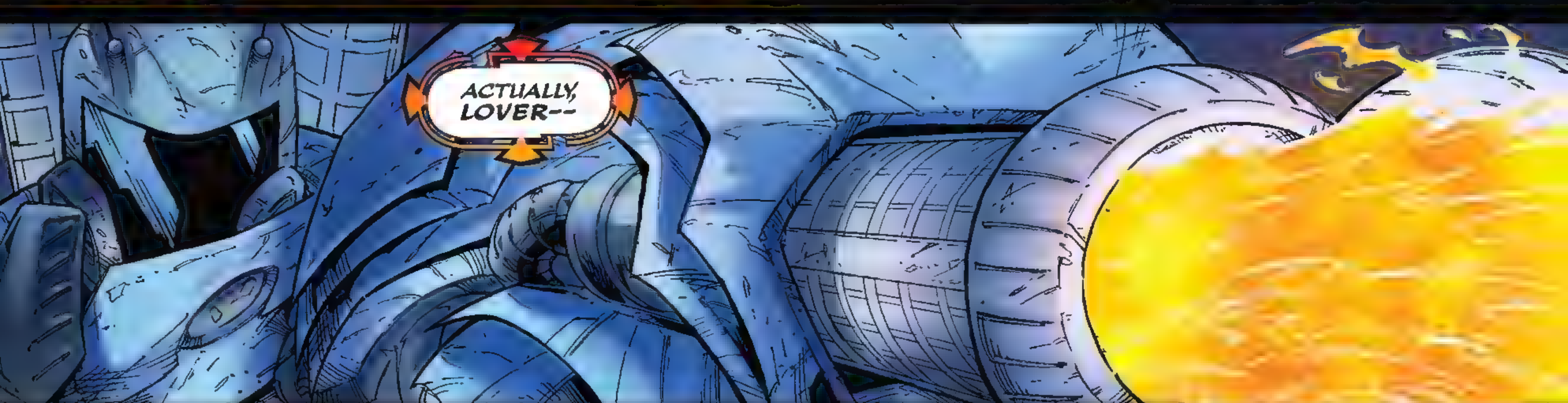
...IT'S
SOMETHING OF AN
UPGRADE.







I DON'T
THINK THIS IS
PART OF THE
SHOW.



ACTUALLY,
LOVER--

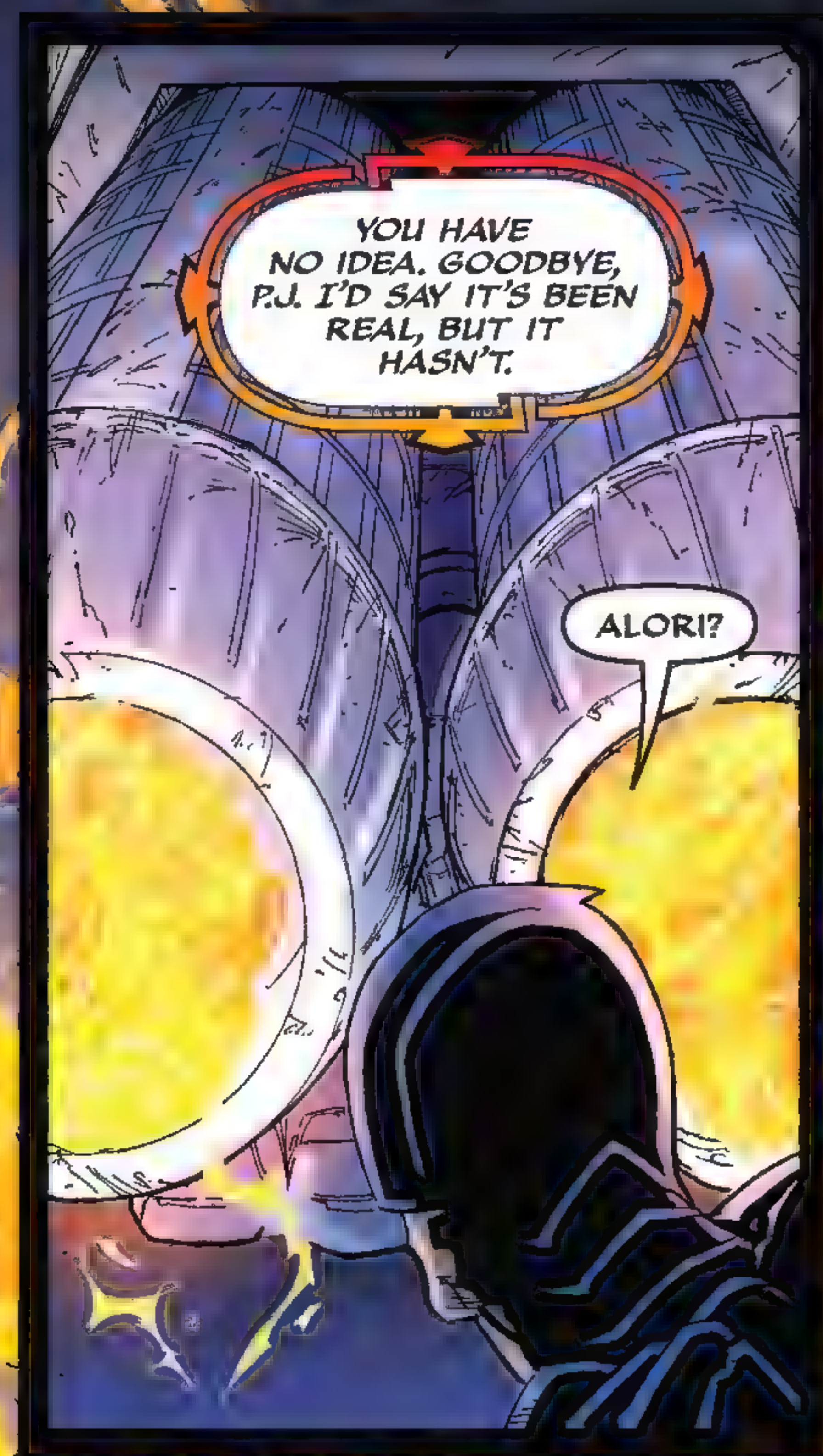


--IT'S ALL
PART OF THE
SHOW.



EASY, GIRL.
TIMEOUT.

THIS IS
SOME REAL
TROUBLE.



YOU HAVE
NO IDEA. GOODBYE,
P.J. I'D SAY IT'S BEEN
REAL, BUT IT
HASN'T.

ALORI?



I KNEW
YOU WERE
TOO GOOD TO
BE TRUE,
ALORI.

AND HERE
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE JEALOUS
THAT I WAS GIVING
P.J. ALL THE
ATTENTION.

NNNNNN...

DON'T WORRY--
ABEL WANTS ME TO
GIVE YOU SOME SUGAR,
TOO, THOUGH IT MIGHT
HURT MORE THAN
YOU THINK.

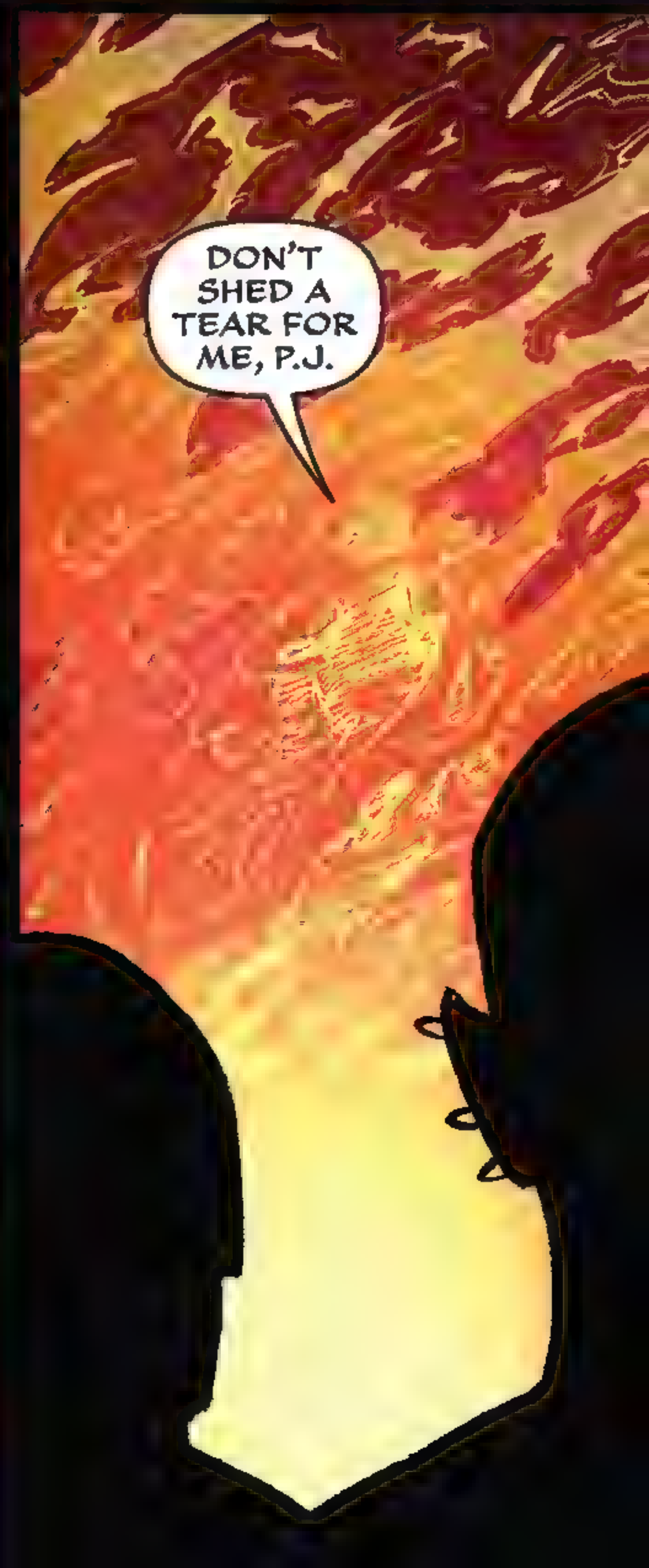
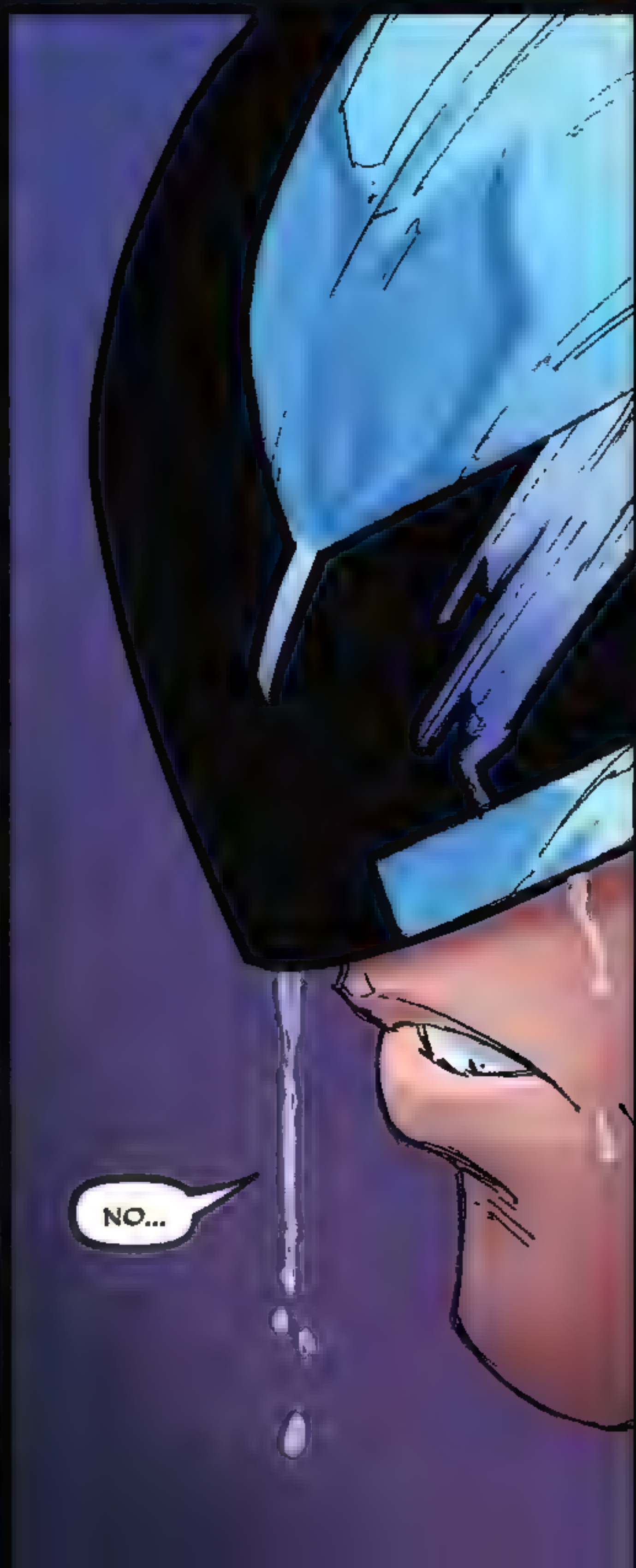
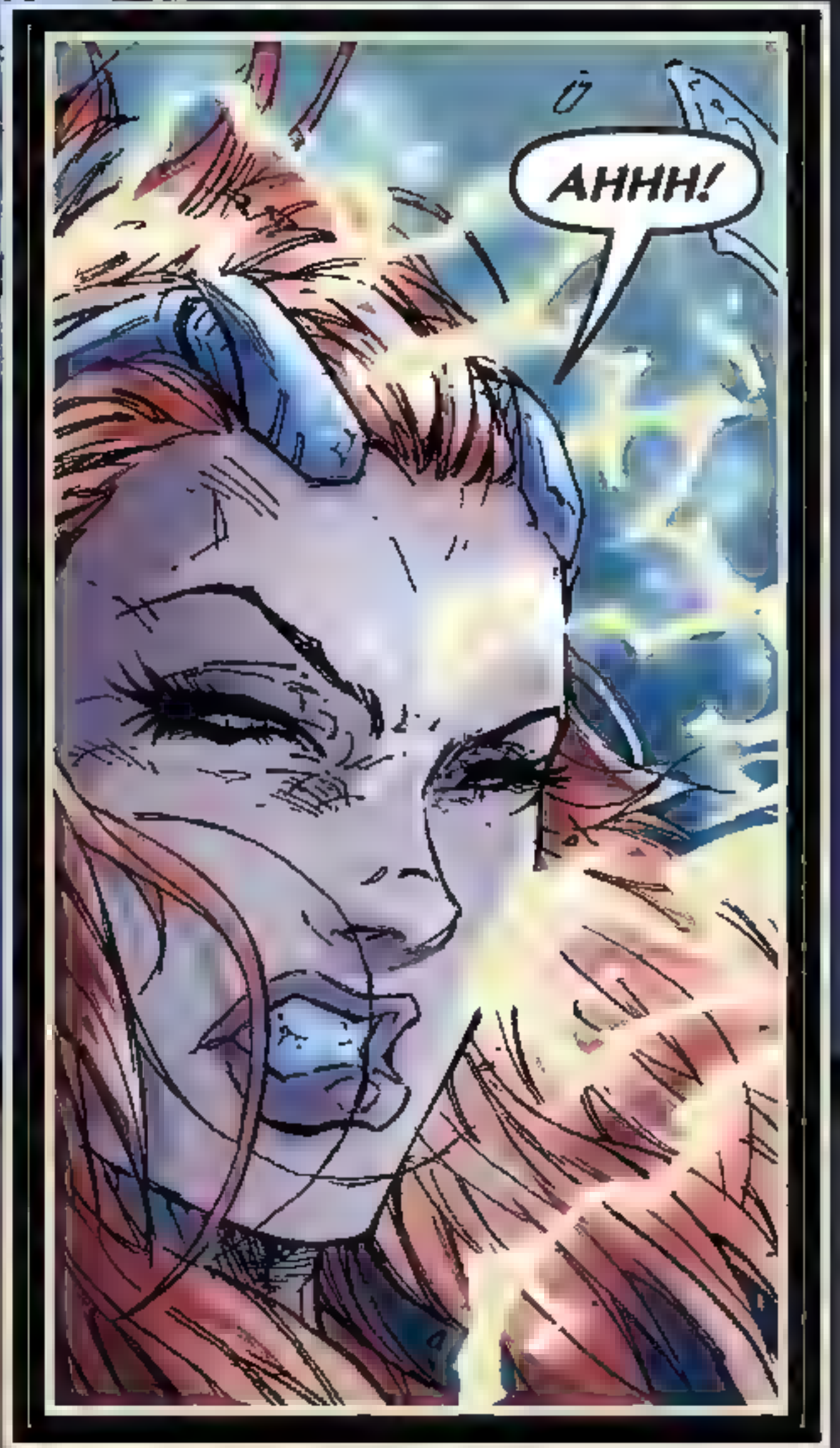


ALORI!
STOP!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
GIRL?!



SHE AIN'T
YOUR GIRL,
P.J. NEVER
WAS.



I'M FINE.
REALLY.



J.T. KRUL • v ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

10
FEB
10

#8

COVER A

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE



WKT



J.E. KRUL • V Ken MARION • erick ARCINIEGA • josh REED

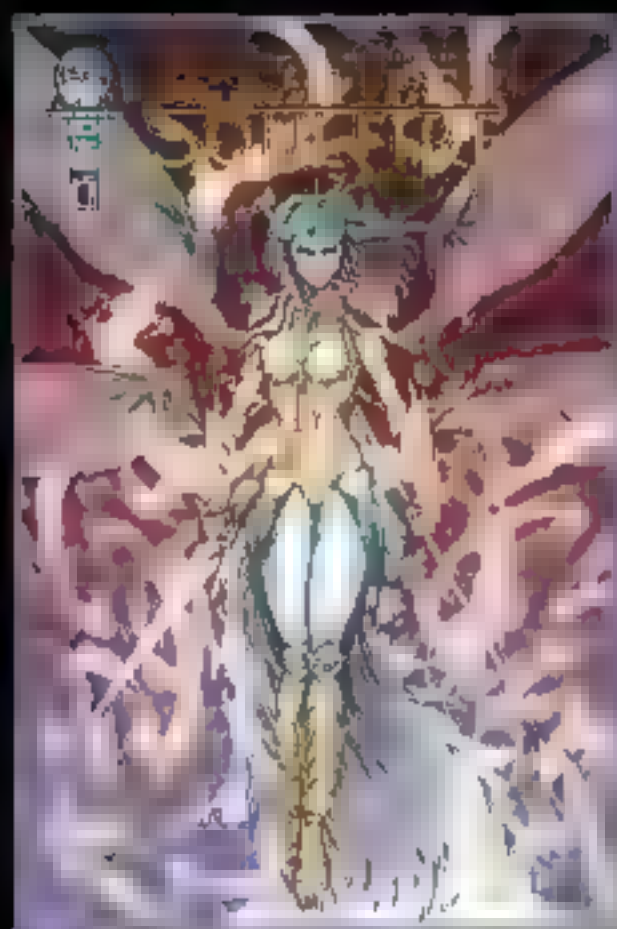
10
FEB
10

#8

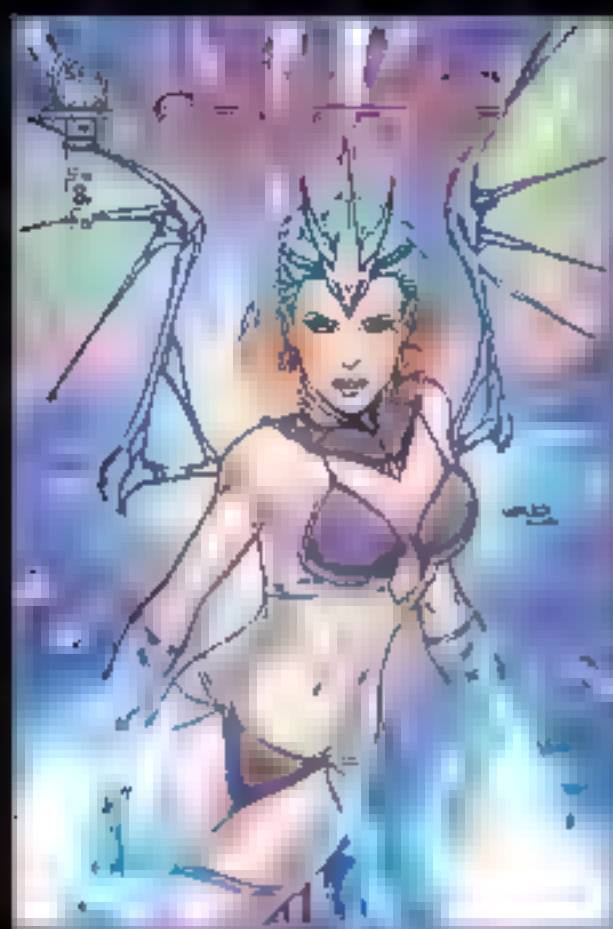
COVER B

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™

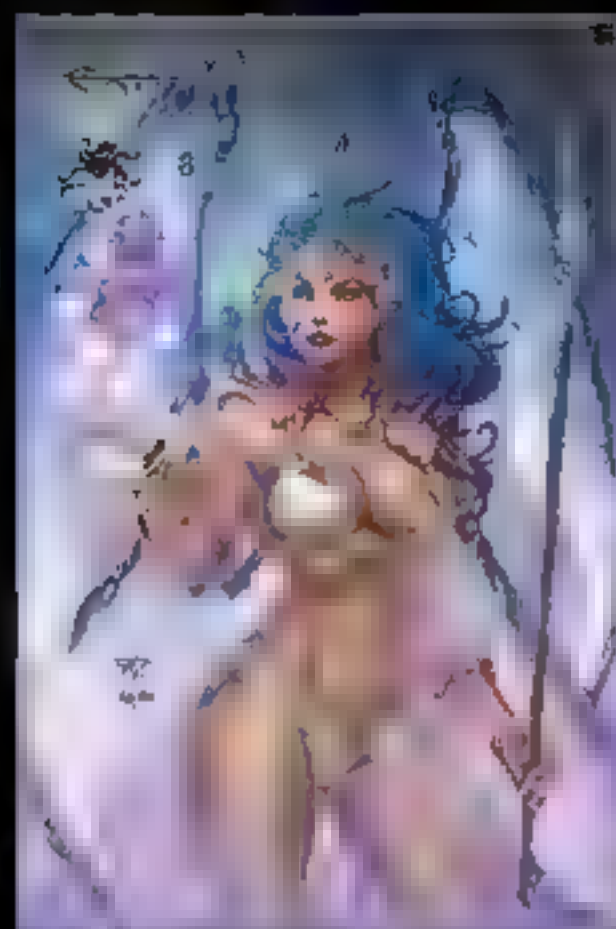
GUNDERSON
WestFlo



DIRECT EDITION
BY V. KEN MARION
& VALENTINA PINTO



DIRECT EDITION
BY JORDAN GUNDERSON
& WES HARTMAN



STAN LEE'S COMIKAZE EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION OF 200
BY PAOLO PANTALENI
& ULA MOS

J.T. KRUL &
FRANK MASTROMAURO

plot

J.T. KRUL

script

V. KEN MARION

pencils

MARK ROSLAN

& JUANCHO

digital inks

ERICK ARGINIEGA

& JUANCHO

colors

JOSH REED

lettering

A L L N E W

M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S

S O U L F I R E

soulfire created by michael turner

"Grudge Match"

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED...

MALAKAI LEARNS THE BRUTAL TRUTH RELATED TO THE
EXISTENCE OF MAGIC IN THE WORLD, AND THE EFFECT ITS
CHAOS CAN HAVE UPON THOSE SEARCHING FOR FAITH IN
ALL THE WRONG PLACES. MEANWHILE, HIS FRIEND PJ ALSO
MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY, AS HIS LOVE INTEREST
ALONE BETRAYS HIM, AND IN THE PROCESS REVEALS THAT
HER INNER WORKINGS ARE FAR MORE IRONIC AND MUCH
MORE DEADLY...

FOR ASPEN:
Founder: MICHAEL TURNER
Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD
Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO
VP/Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ
VP/Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN
Editorial Assistants: JOSH REED, ANDREA SHEA
Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS
Office Manager: MEGAN MADRIGAL
AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™ Vol. 5 Issue 8

OCTOBER 2014. DIGITAL COPY. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc.,

Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite. III, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Michael Turner's Soulfire™ and the Michael Turner's Soulfire logo, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2014 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc.

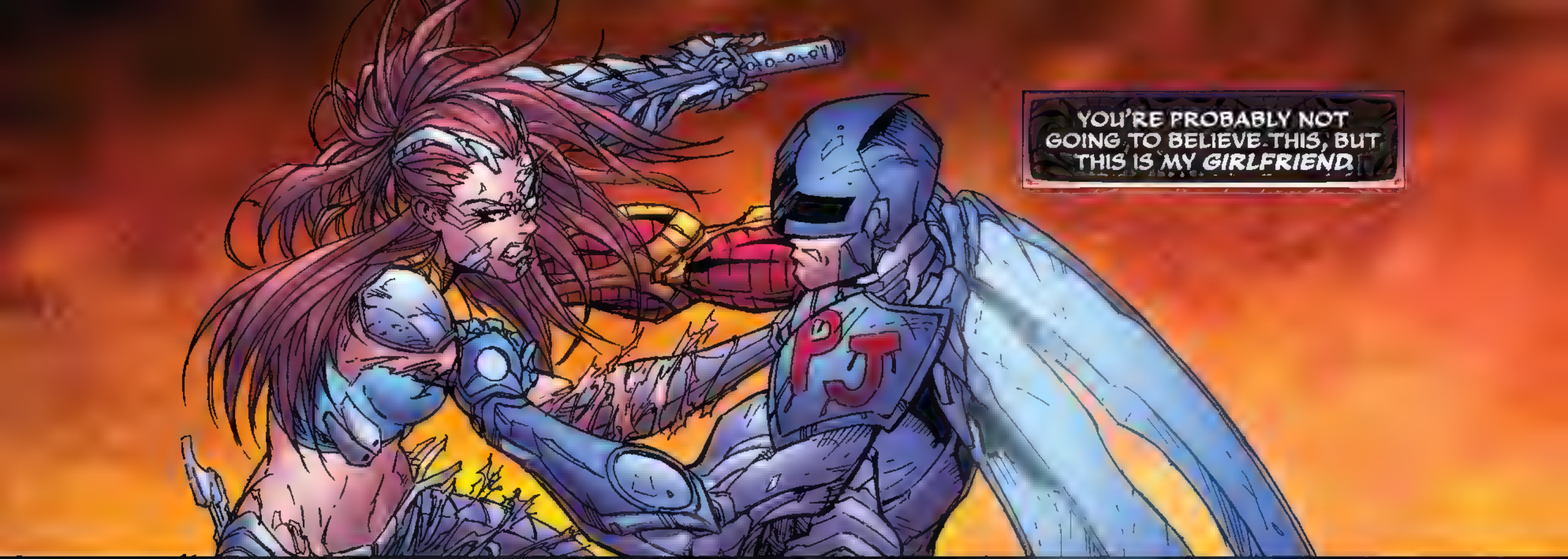
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://www.facebook.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
[TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS](https://twitter.com/ASPENCOMICS)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@CFLOYSTUDIO.COM]



YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT
GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, BUT
THIS IS MY *GIRLFRIEND*.



WHO KNEW SHE
WAS ACTUALLY A FRIGGIN'
ROBOT? I SURE DIDN'T.



NOT JUST ANY ROBOT,
BUT A ROBOT THAT'S
TRYING TO KILL ME.

WISH I COULD
SAY THAT WAS
THE *BIGGEST*
PROBLEM...



BUT,
IT'S NOT EVEN
CLOSE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, **BENOIST**? BEST SHOW EVER?

IF YOU WANTED TO GET BACK AT ME, WHY NOT JUST COME AT ME, **ABEL**? WHY GO THROUGH ALL THIS?



IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT DEFEATING YOU. IT WAS ABOUT **DESTROYING YOUR LIFE** AND EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

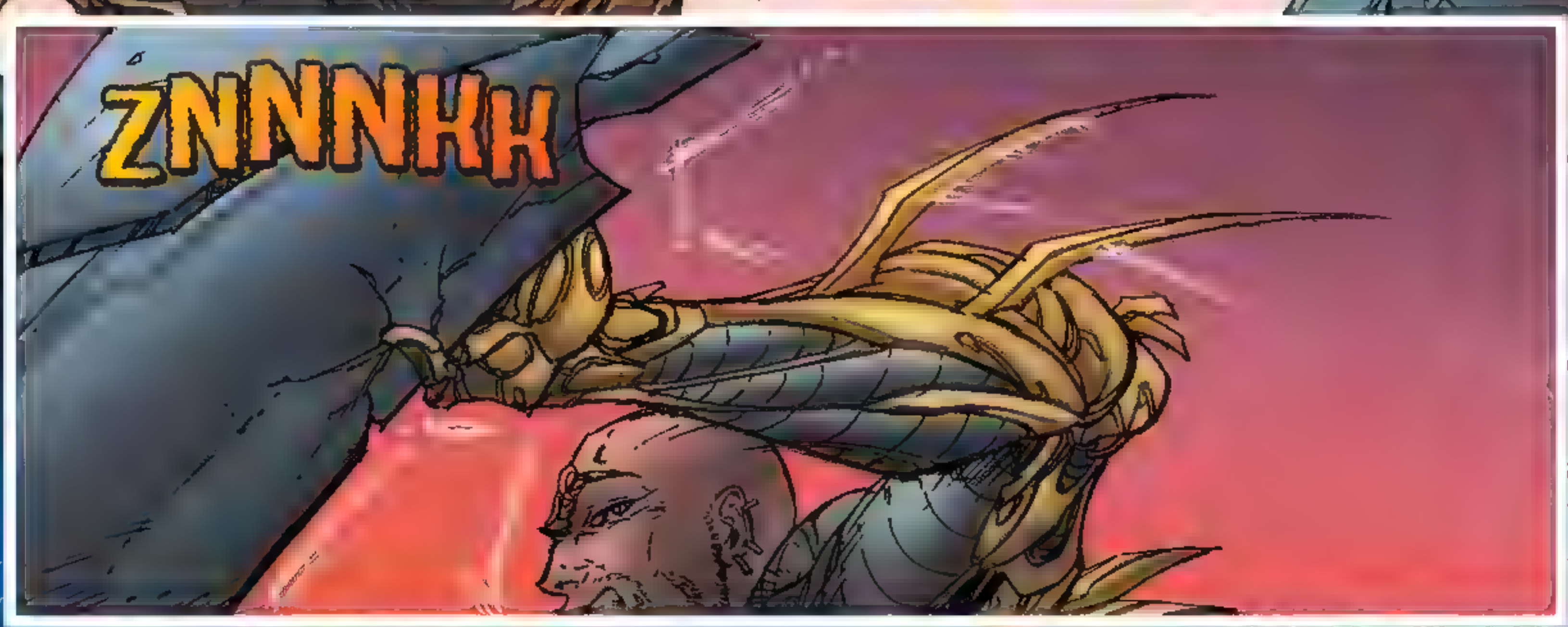


BESIDES, I KNOW YOU LIKE BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.



NNNNN...!

SHKKK



ZNNNKKH



AS USUAL,
ABEL...



...YOU BIT
OFF MORE
THAN YOU CAN
CHEW.

IRONIC
CHOICE OF
WORDS.

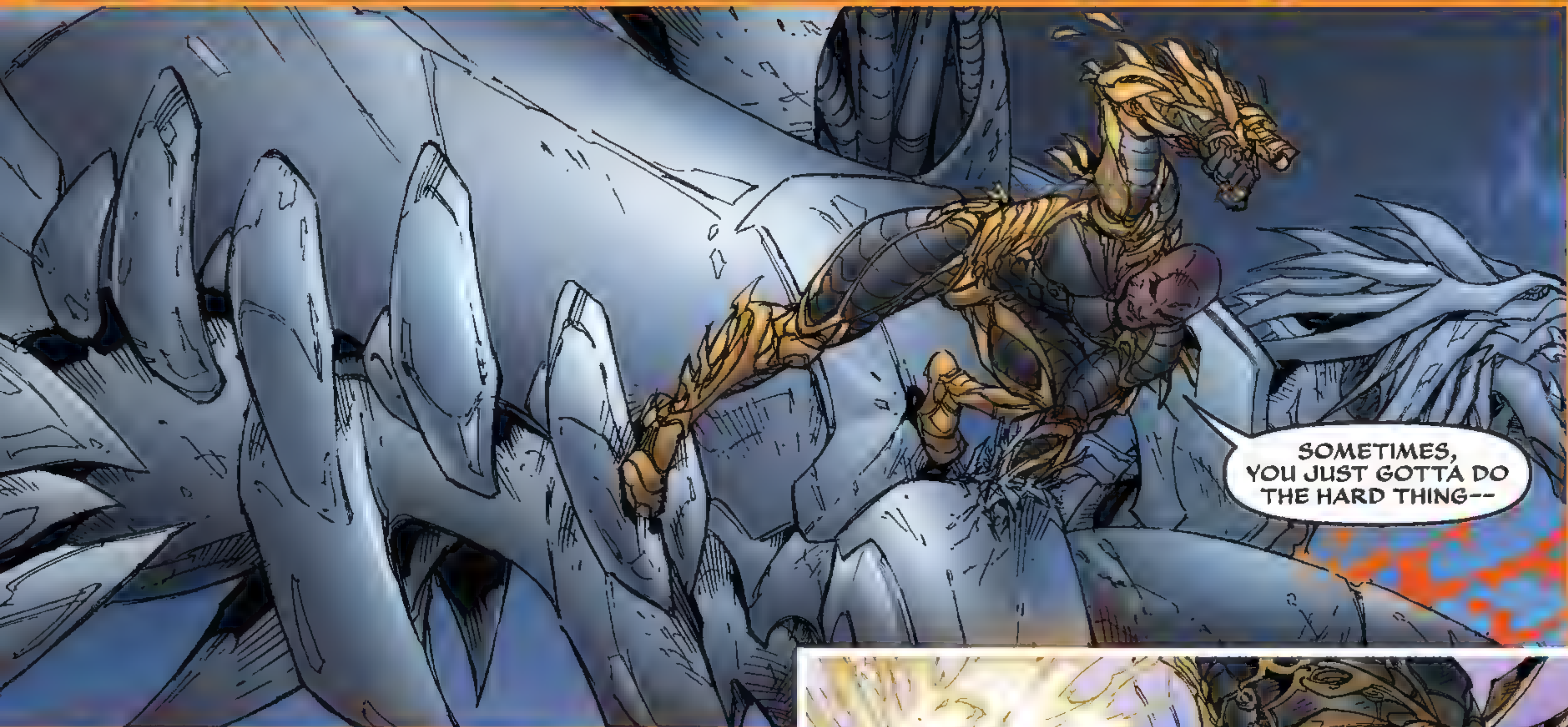


KHAKRCHHH

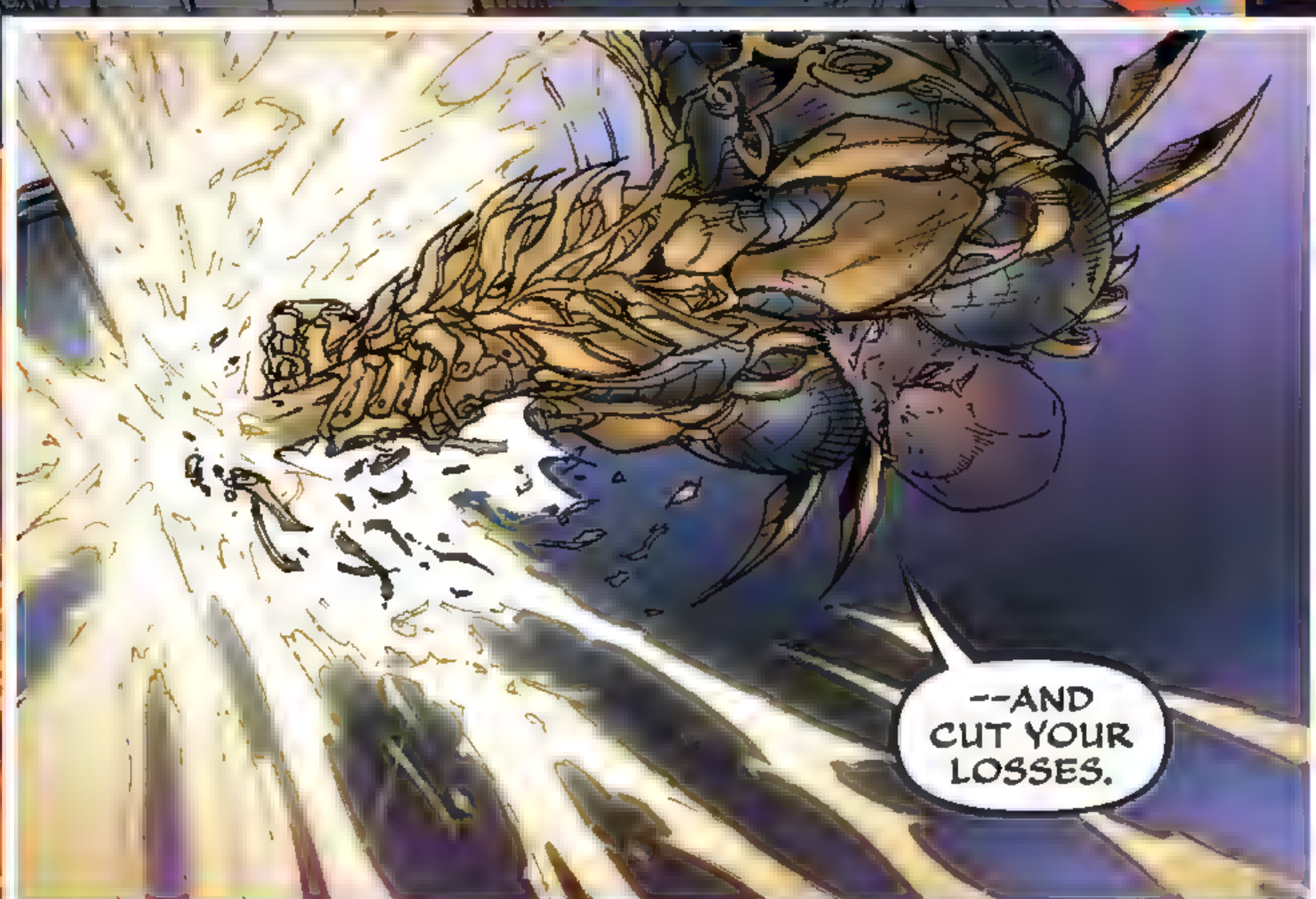
WHOOAAA!

BENOIST!
HANG ON!

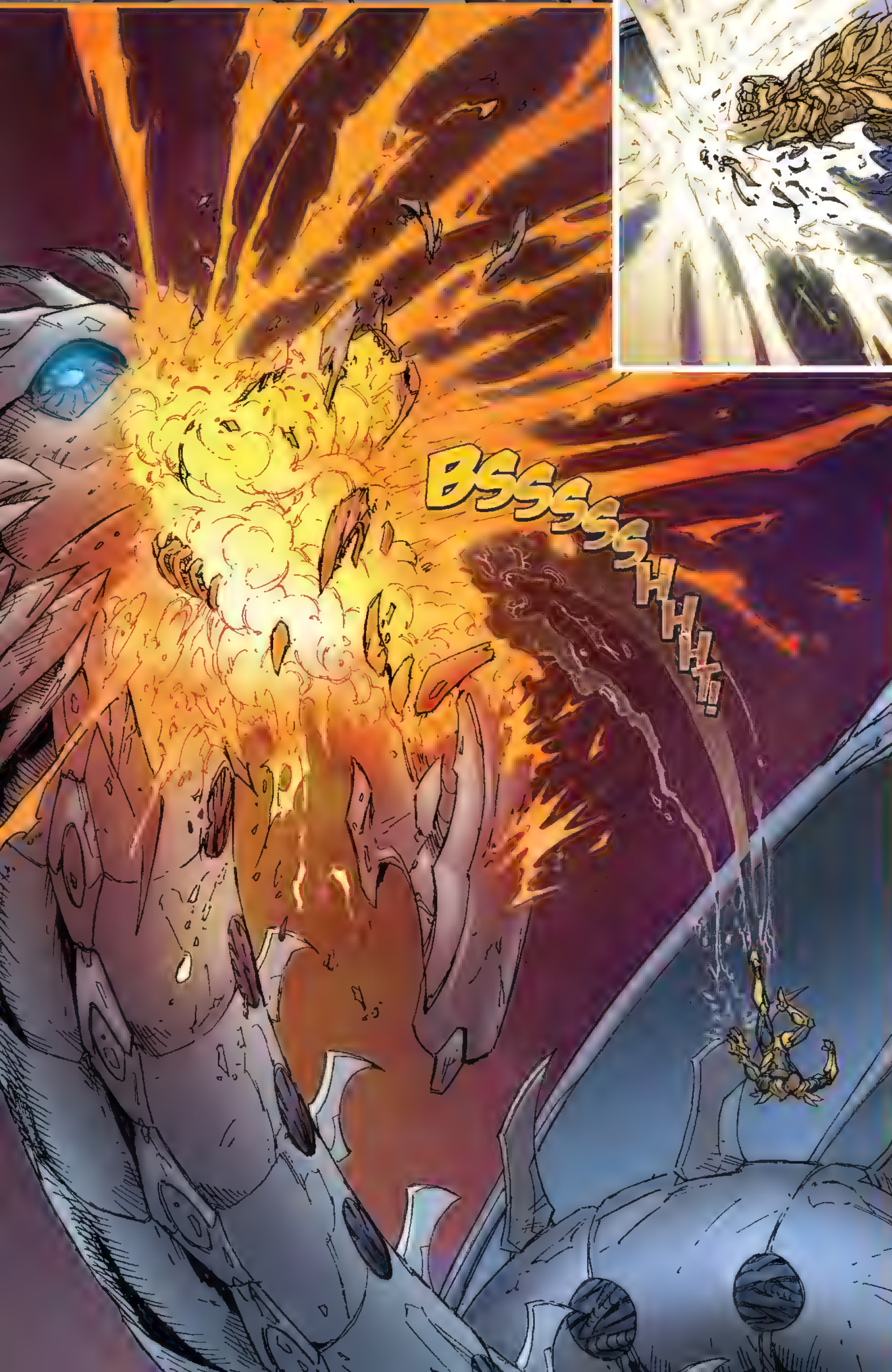
DON'T
GOT MUCH OF
A CHOICE,
KID.



SOMETIMES,
YOU JUST GOTTA DO
THE HARD THING--



--AND
CUT YOUR
LOSSES.



BSSSSSS
SHHHH





MALIKAI, WE
NEED TO WORK
TOGETHER.



I DON'T
KNOW IF WE HAVE
THAT LUXURY THIS
TIME AROUND.



THIS WAS
WAY EASIER
WHEN THERE WAS
ONLY ONE HEAD
TO WORRY
ABOUT.

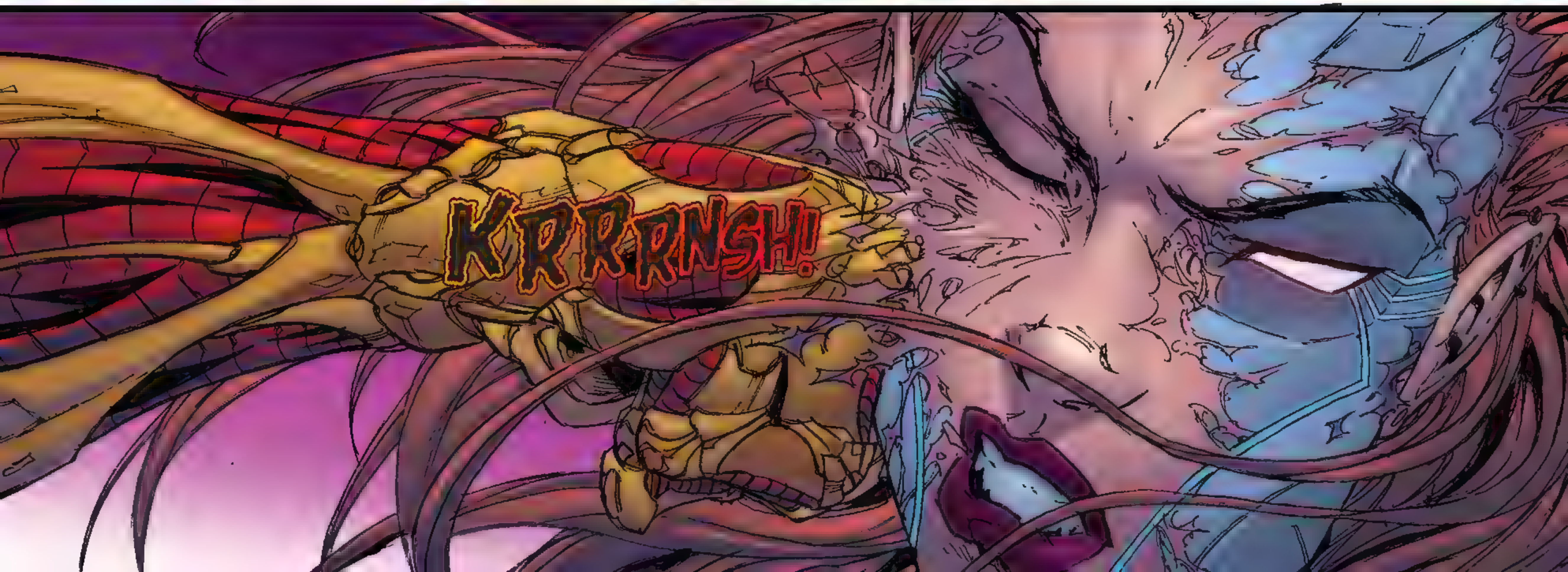


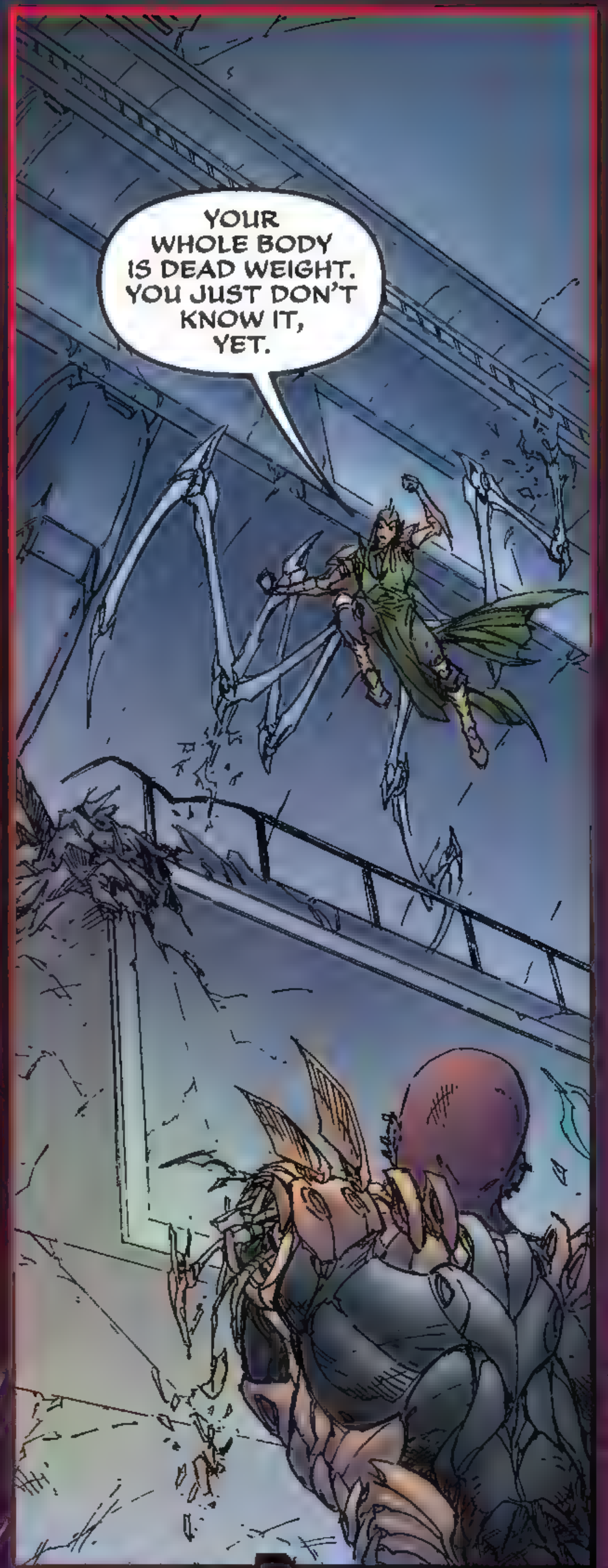
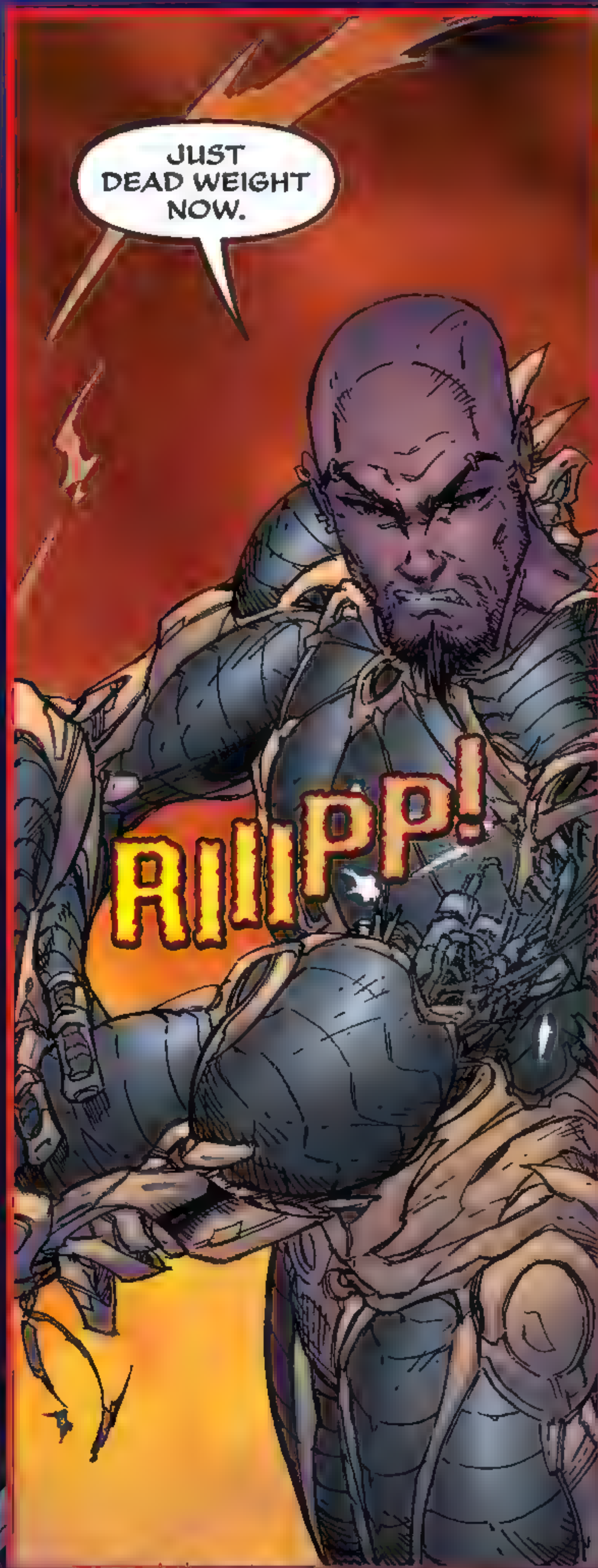
YOU'RE
A TOUGH NUT
TO CRACK. I'LL
GIVE YOU
THAT.



BUT
I'M BETTING
THAT TOUGHNESS
IS ONLY SKIN
DEEP.









THAT
THING IS
SO HEAVY,
IT CANNOT
POSSIBLY
FLY.

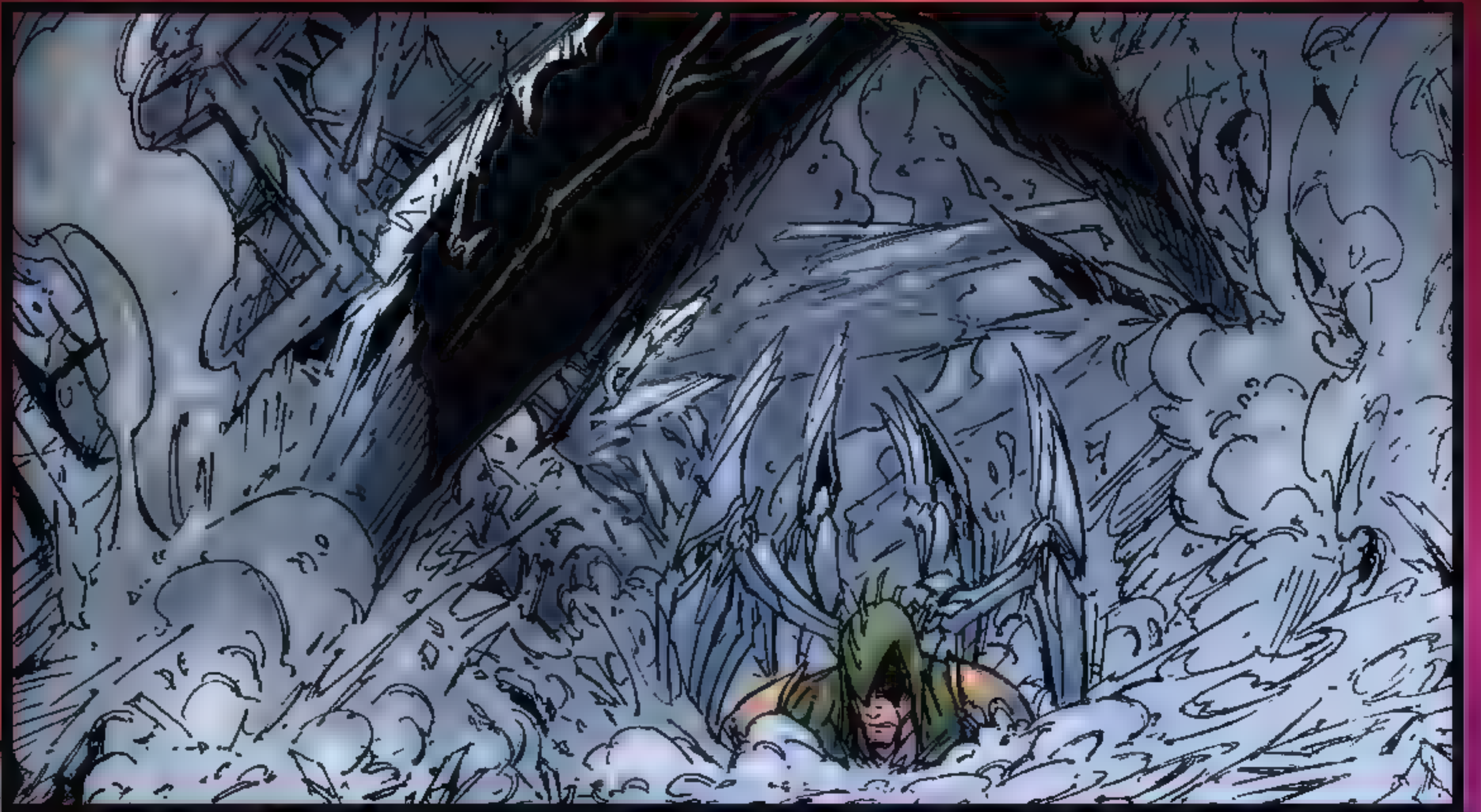
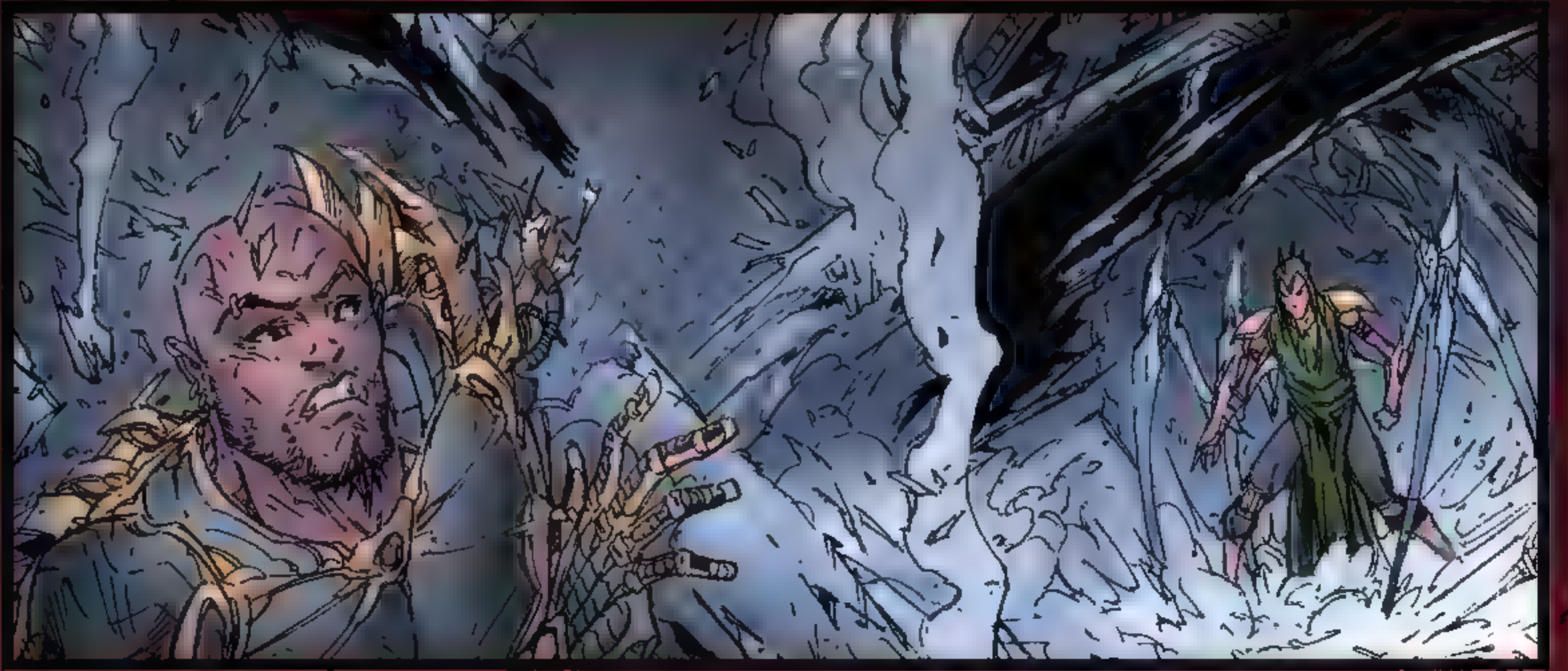
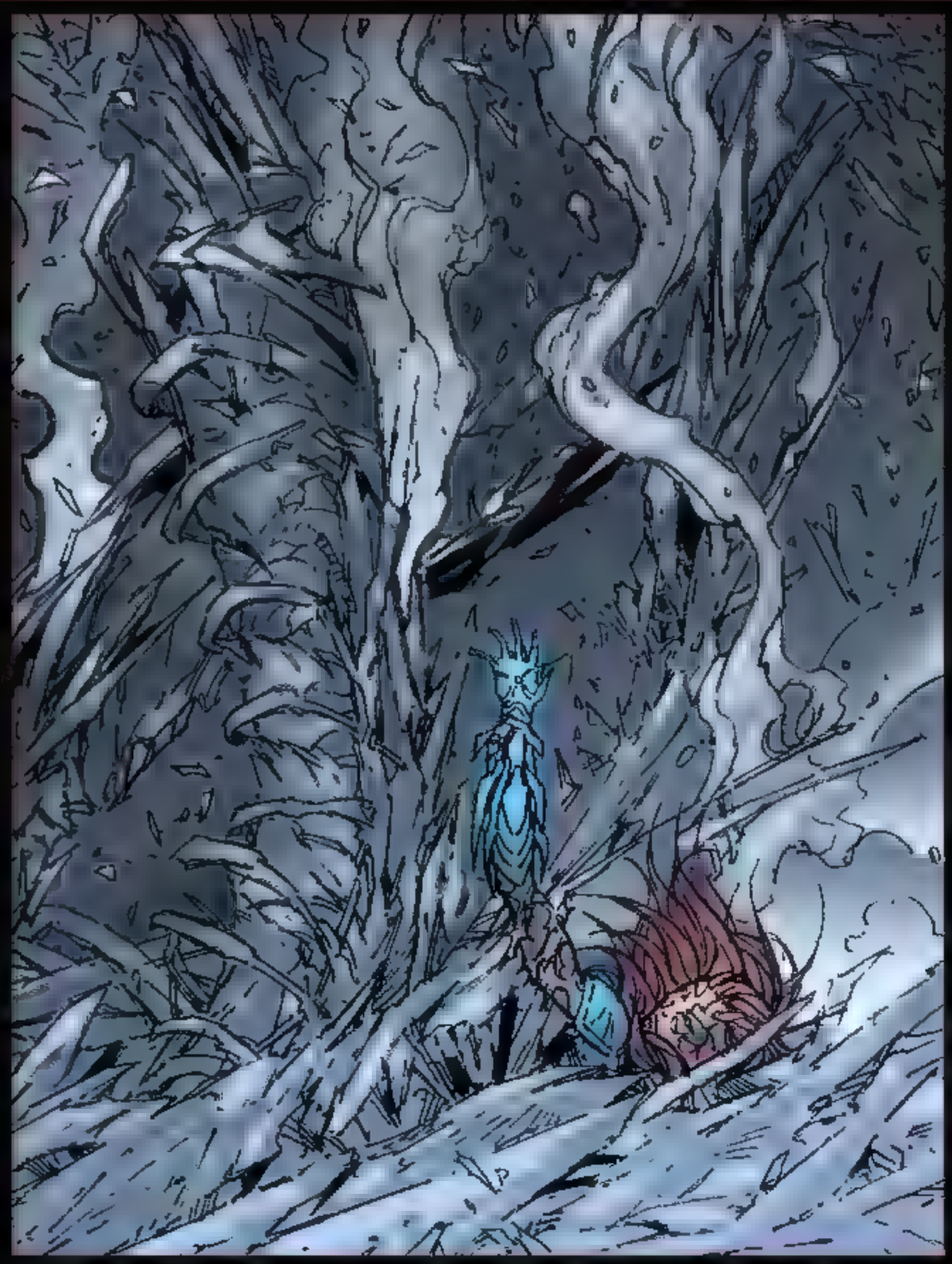
MAYBE
WE SHOULD LET
GRAVITY DO ITS
PART.



**K
R
R
R
M
M
M**



LET'S GO,
BROTHER. SHOW'S
OVER.



NO MATTER
HOW BIG YOU
MIGHT BE...



...YOU'LL
NEVER BE
BETTER THAN
THE REAL THING.
TRUST ME, I
KNOW.



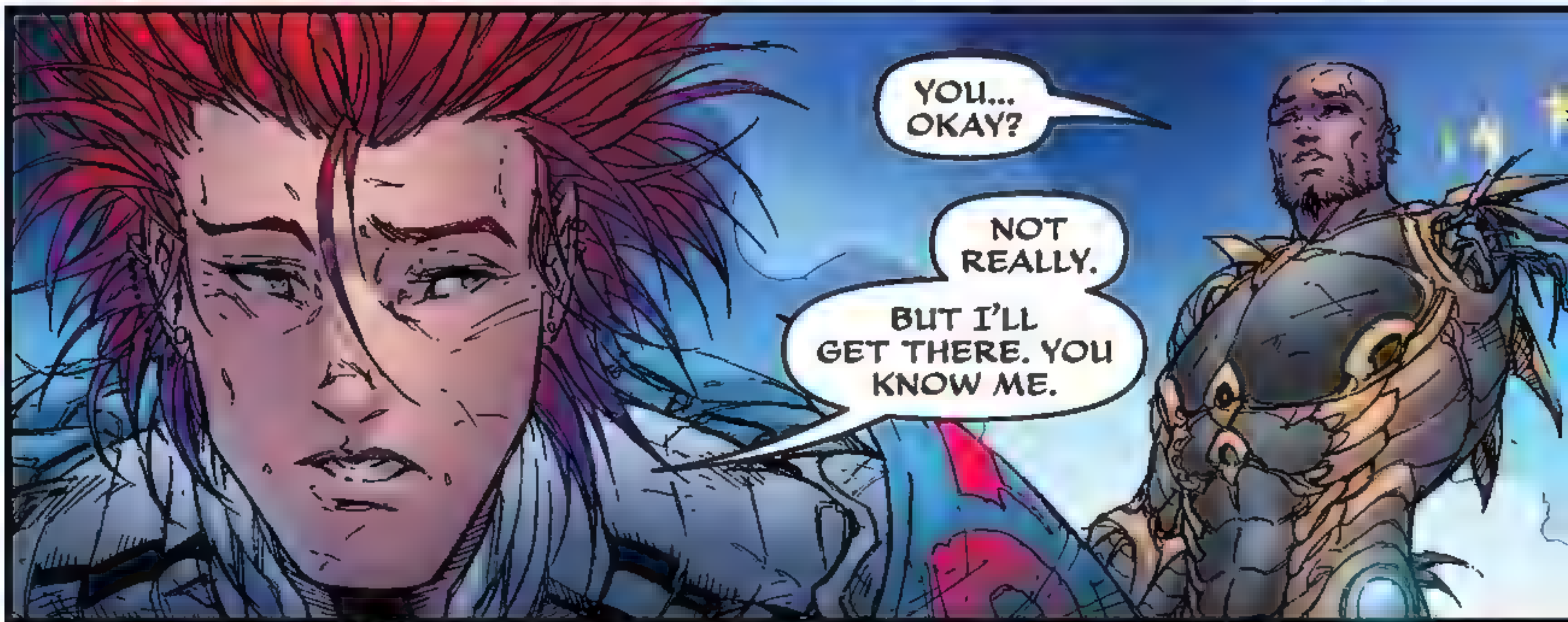


DID WE
GET HIM?
ABEL?

MY
SCANNERS
AREN'T PICKING
UP ANY LIFE FORMS,
LIVING OR DEAD. HE
MUST HAVE *SLINKED*
AWAY LIKE THE
SNAKE HE IS.



ALORI!



YOU...
OKAY?

NOT
REALLY.

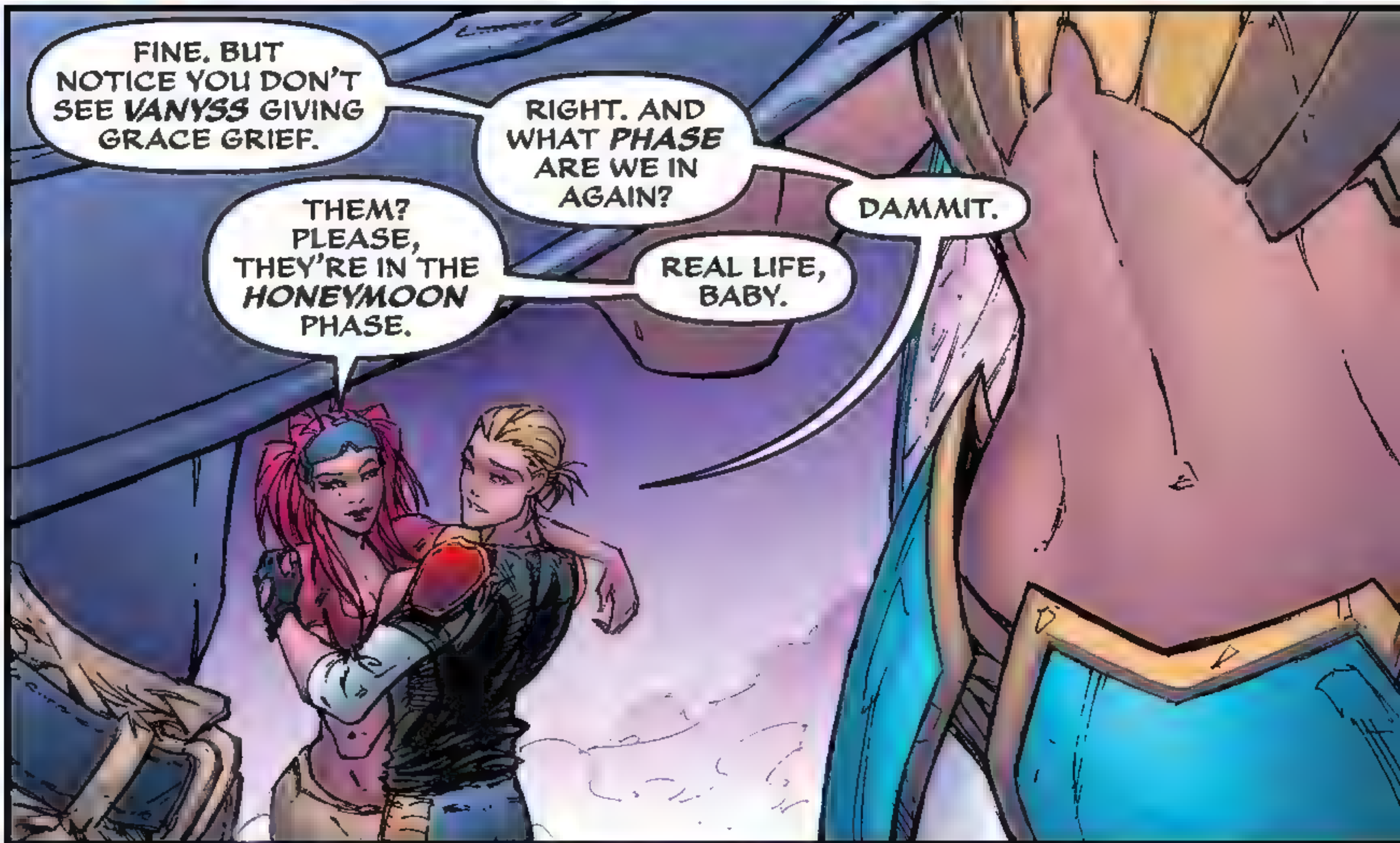
BUT I'LL
GET THERE. YOU
KNOW ME.



YOU DO REALIZE THE
ENTIRE PLACE PRACTICALLY
FELL ONTO MY HEAD.

I DID THE
BEST I COULD.
SORRY.

MAYBE
NEXT TIME
JUST STAY OUT
OF THE GIANT
ROBOT FIGHT,
OKAY?



FINE. BUT
NOTICE YOU DON'T
SEE VANYSS GIVING
GRACE GRIEF.

RIGHT. AND
WHAT *PHASE*
ARE WE IN
AGAIN?

THEM?
PLEASE,
THEY'RE IN THE
HONEYMOON
PHASE.

REAL LIFE,
BABY.

DAMMIT.



SO,
WHAT DO YOU
SAY--- CAN WE SAY
GOODBYE TO
PARIS?

SURE.
I JUST WANT
TO MAKE ONE
STOP FIRST.



HELLO?

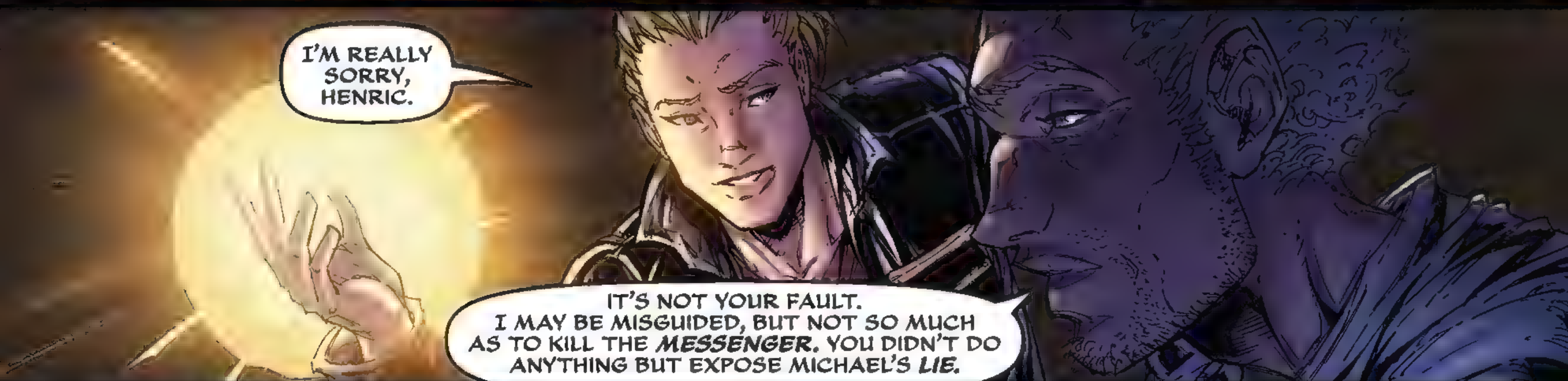
HENRIC?



THERE YOU ARE. WHERE IS EVERYONE?

FUNNY THING ABOUT HAVING YOUR FAITH RIPPED AWAY BEFORE YOUR EYES. IT SENDS YOU LOOKING FOR ANSWERS ELSEWHERE.

I BELIEVE MOST OF THEM ARE AT THE TAVERN AROUND THE CORNER.



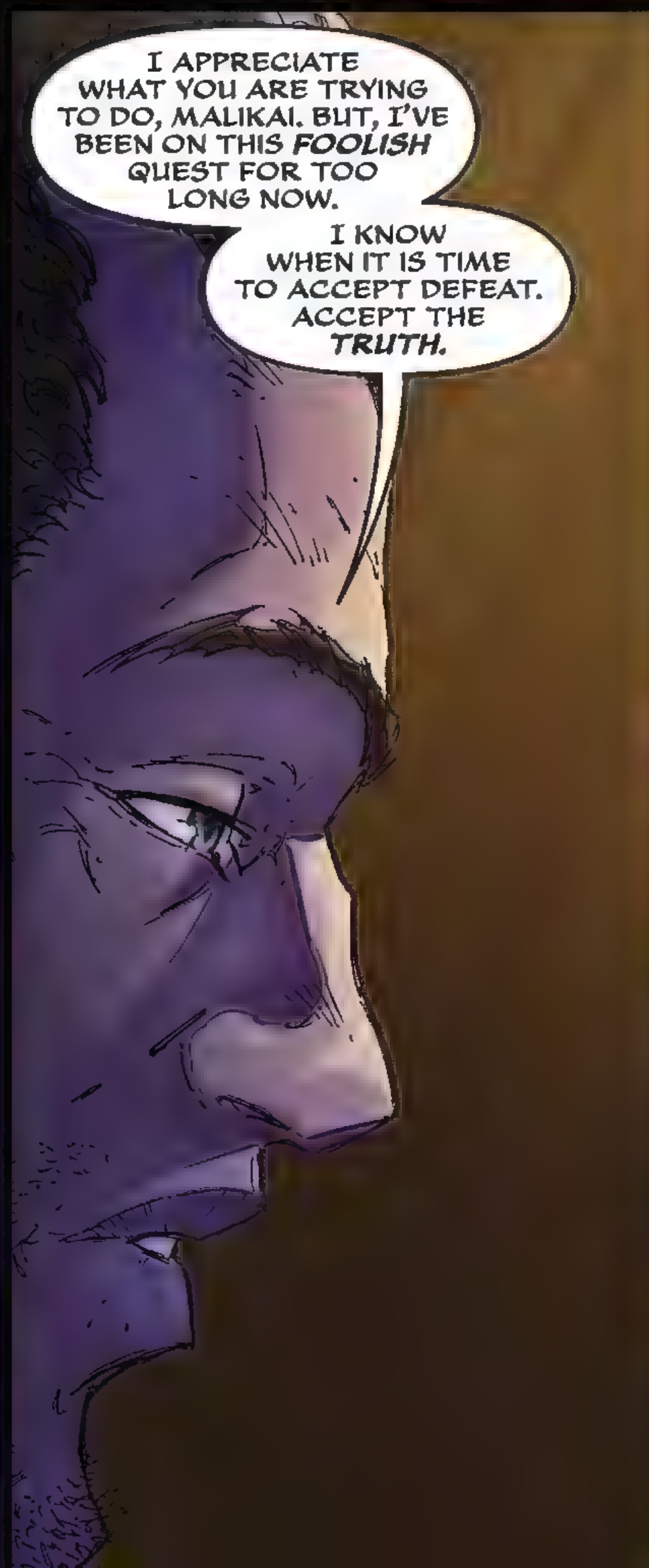
I'M REALLY SORRY, HENRIC.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. I MAY BE MISGUIDED, BUT NOT SO MUCH AS TO KILL THE MESSENGER. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT EXPOSE MICHAEL'S LIE.



HENRIC, YOU AREN'T MISGUIDED. YOU MERELY MISJUDGED.

MICHAEL WAS NO ANGEL, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE MAGIC ISN'T OUT THERE.



I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO, MALIKAI. BUT, I'VE BEEN ON THIS FOOLISH QUEST FOR TOO LONG NOW.

I KNOW WHEN IT IS TIME TO ACCEPT DEFEAT. ACCEPT THE TRUTH.



MAYBE.

OR MAYBE, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS LOOK UP.



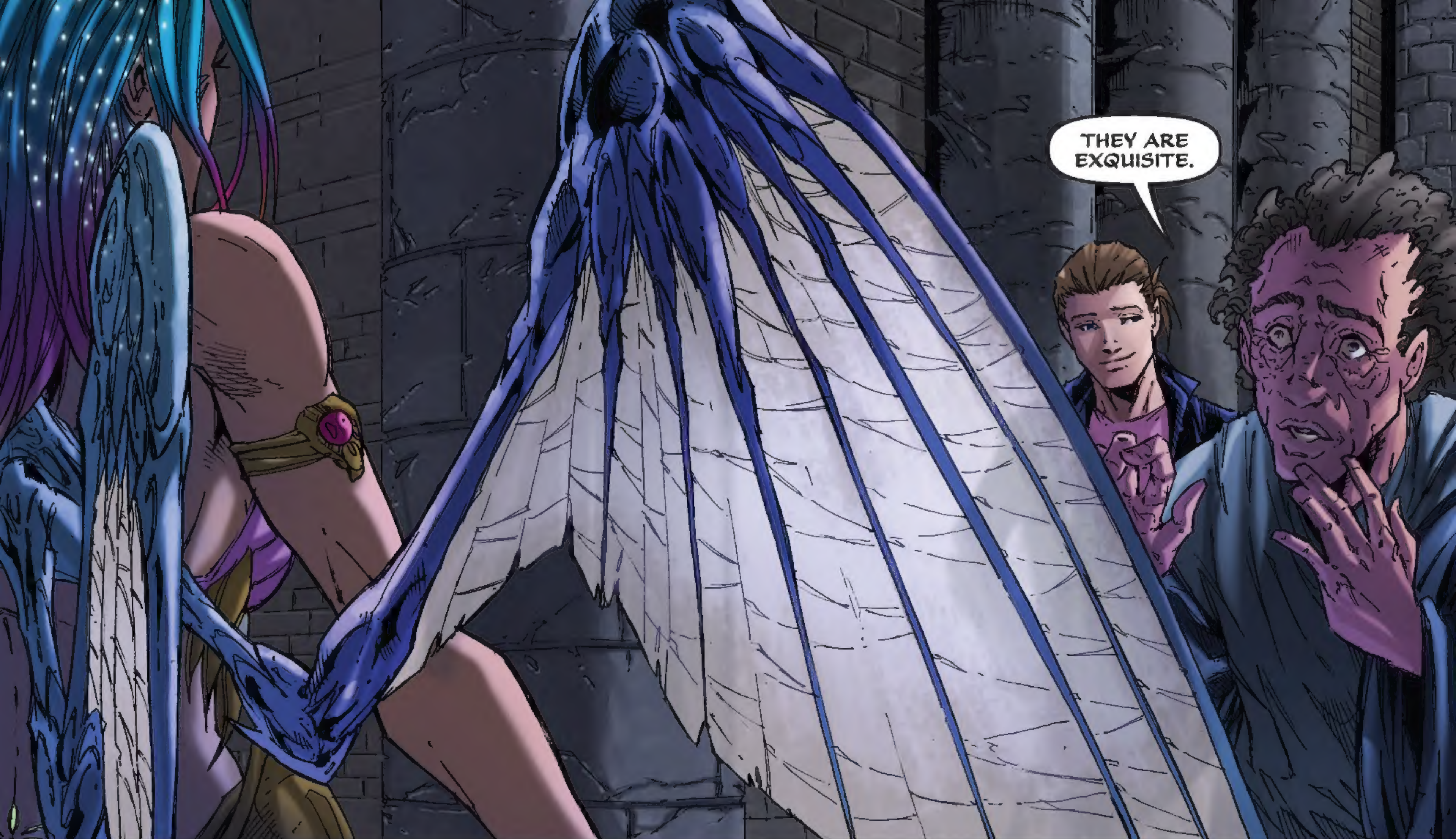
MY GOD!*

*TRANSLATED
FROM FRENCH.



THESE
ARE FRIENDS
OF MINE-- GRACE
AND VANYSS.

BON...
BONJOUR.



THEY ARE
EXQUISITE.



BUT, HOW
CAN I KNOW THIS
ISN'T SIMPLY MORE
OF THE SAME? MORE
TRICKERY? LIKE
MICHAEL.

I SUPPOSE
YOU CAN'T--
NOT A HUNDRED
PERCENT.



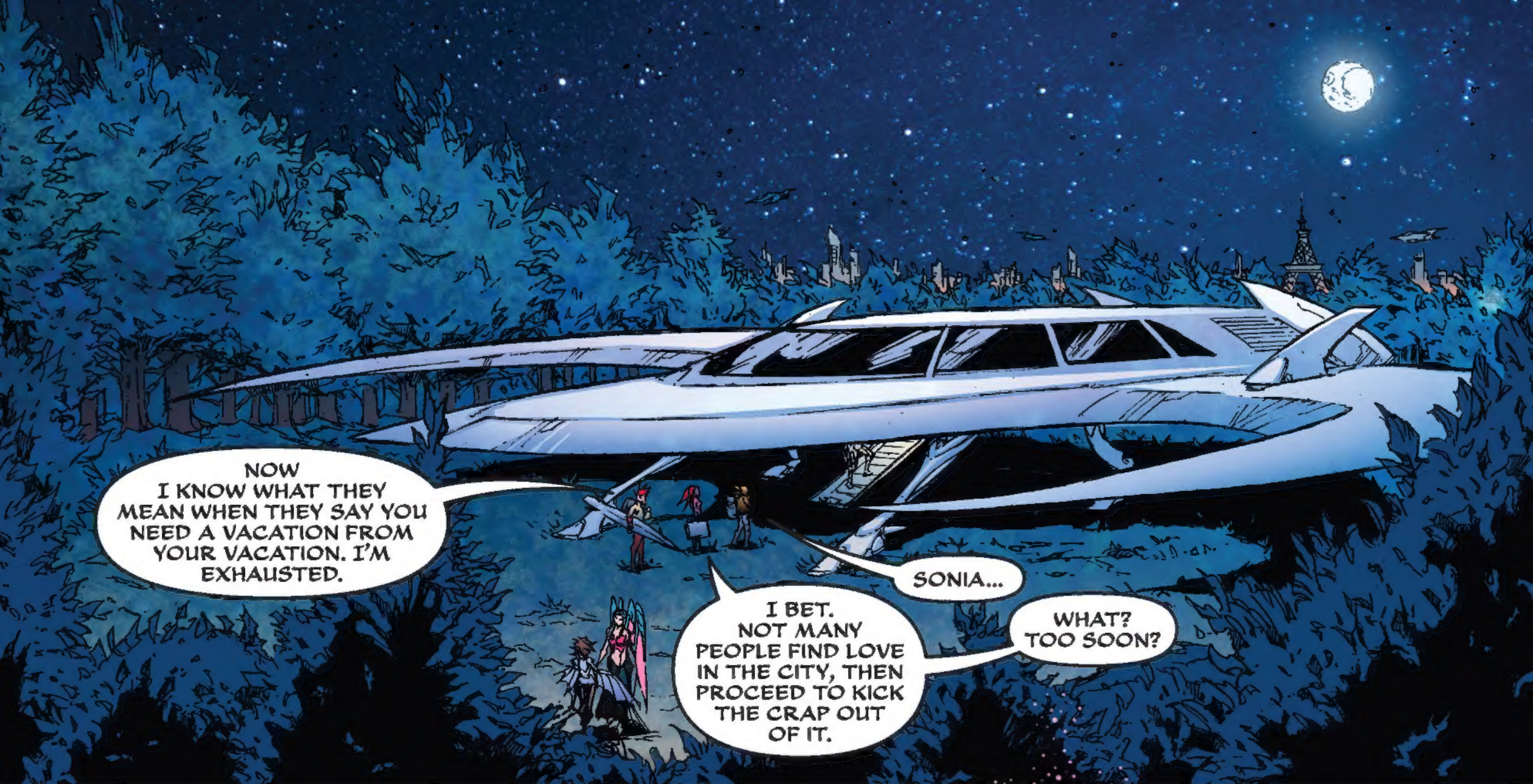
LIKE BEFORE,
ALL YOU CAN DO
IS **BELIEVE.**

BELIEVE ME.

BELIEVE IN
THE **MAGIC.**



I THINK
I CAN DO
THAT.

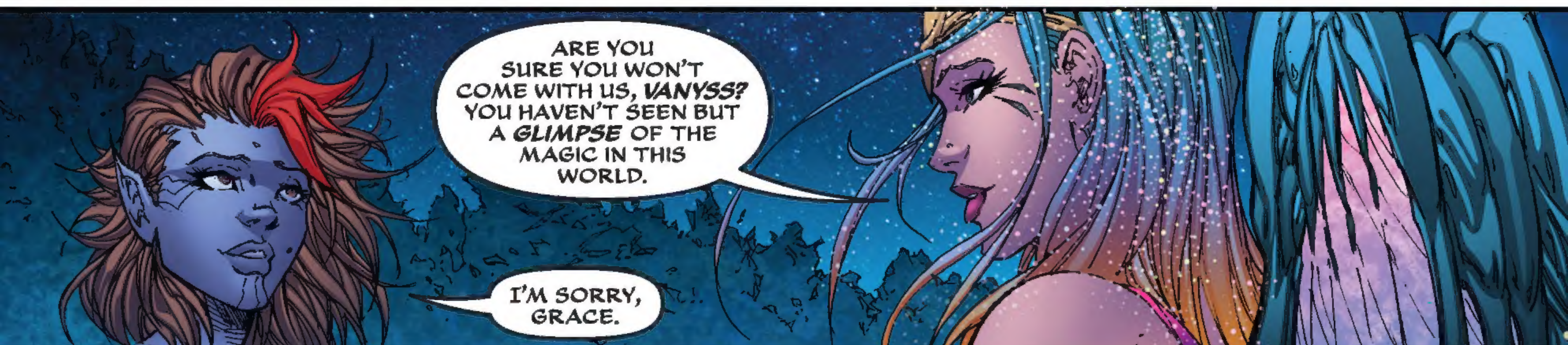


NOW
I KNOW WHAT THEY
MEAN WHEN THEY SAY YOU
NEED A VACATION FROM
YOUR VACATION. I'M
EXHAUSTED.

SONIA...

I BET.
NOT MANY
PEOPLE FIND LOVE
IN THE CITY, THEN
PROCEED TO KICK
THE CRAP OUT
OF IT.

WHAT?
TOO SOON?



ARE YOU
SURE YOU WON'T
COME WITH US, VANYSS?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN BUT
A *GLIMPSE* OF THE
MAGIC IN THIS
WORLD.

I'M SORRY,
GRACE.



I KNOW
I SEEM
ADVENTUROUS,
BUT EVEN I HAVE
MY LIMITS. THIS IS
MY *HOME*. I WANT
TO MAKE A PLACE
FOR MYSELF HERE.
NOT HIDE AWAY
IN SOME CORNER
OF THE
WORLD.

I HAVE YOU
TO THANK FOR
THAT. YOU HELPED
ME SEE MYSELF
FOR SOMETHING
OTHER THAN A
FREAK.



YOU ARE NO FREAK.
AND, IT IS YOU THAT HAS
HELPED *ME*. HELPED ME TO SEE
THE WORLD ANEW. SHOWN ME
JOY AND HOPE...AND
LOVE.

